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MARIE BANKHEAD OWEN, Editor



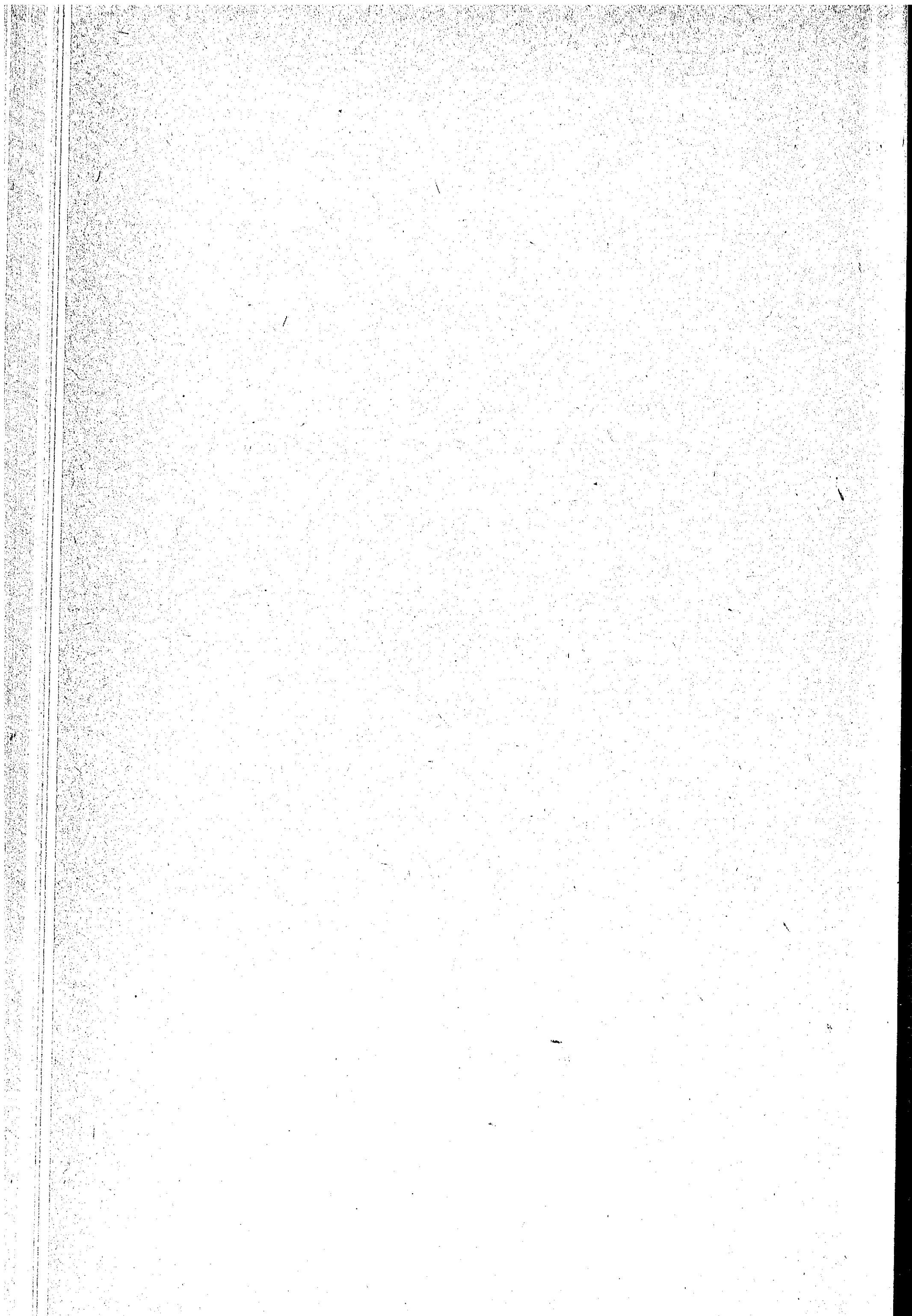
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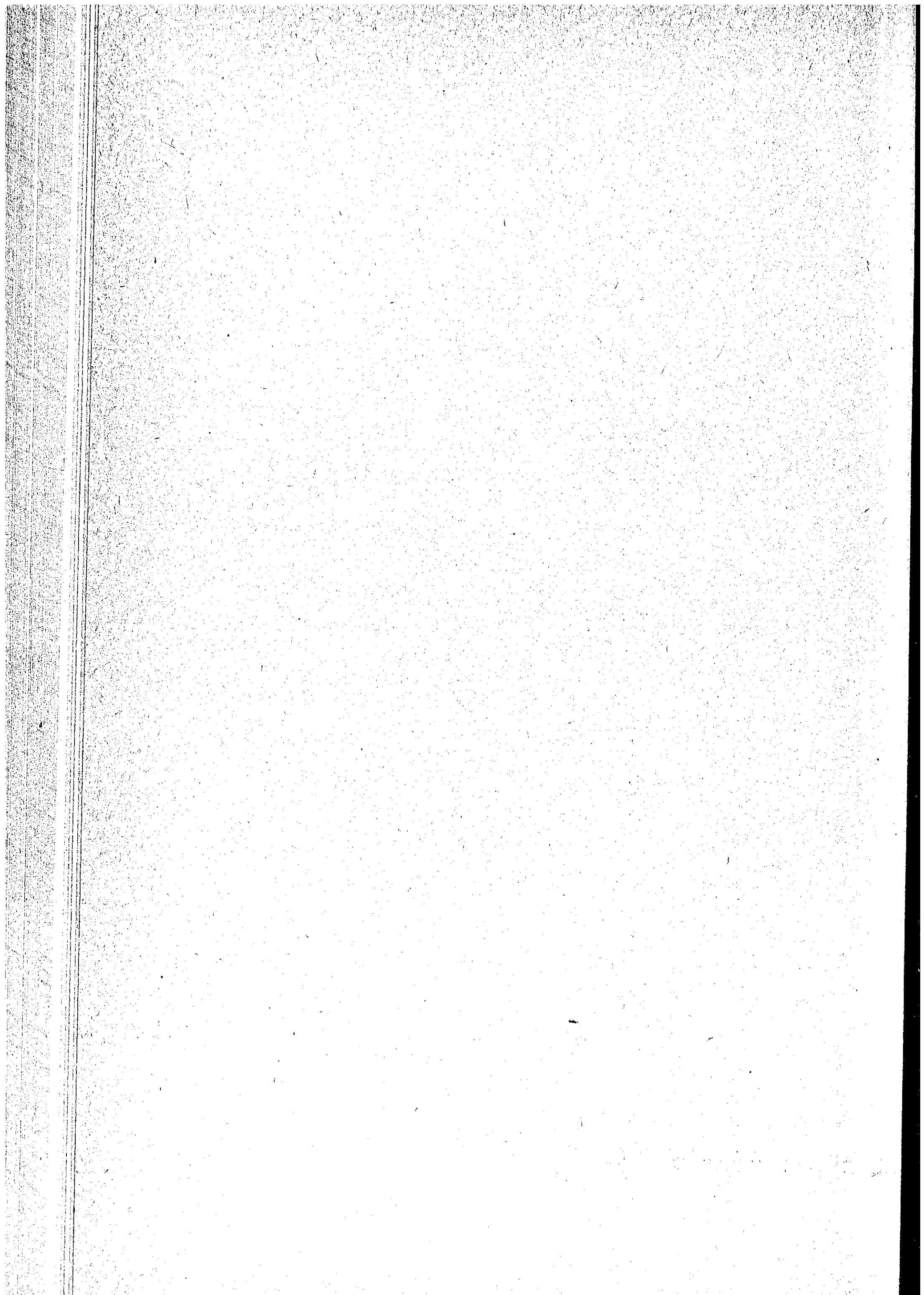
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Wellington Vandiver

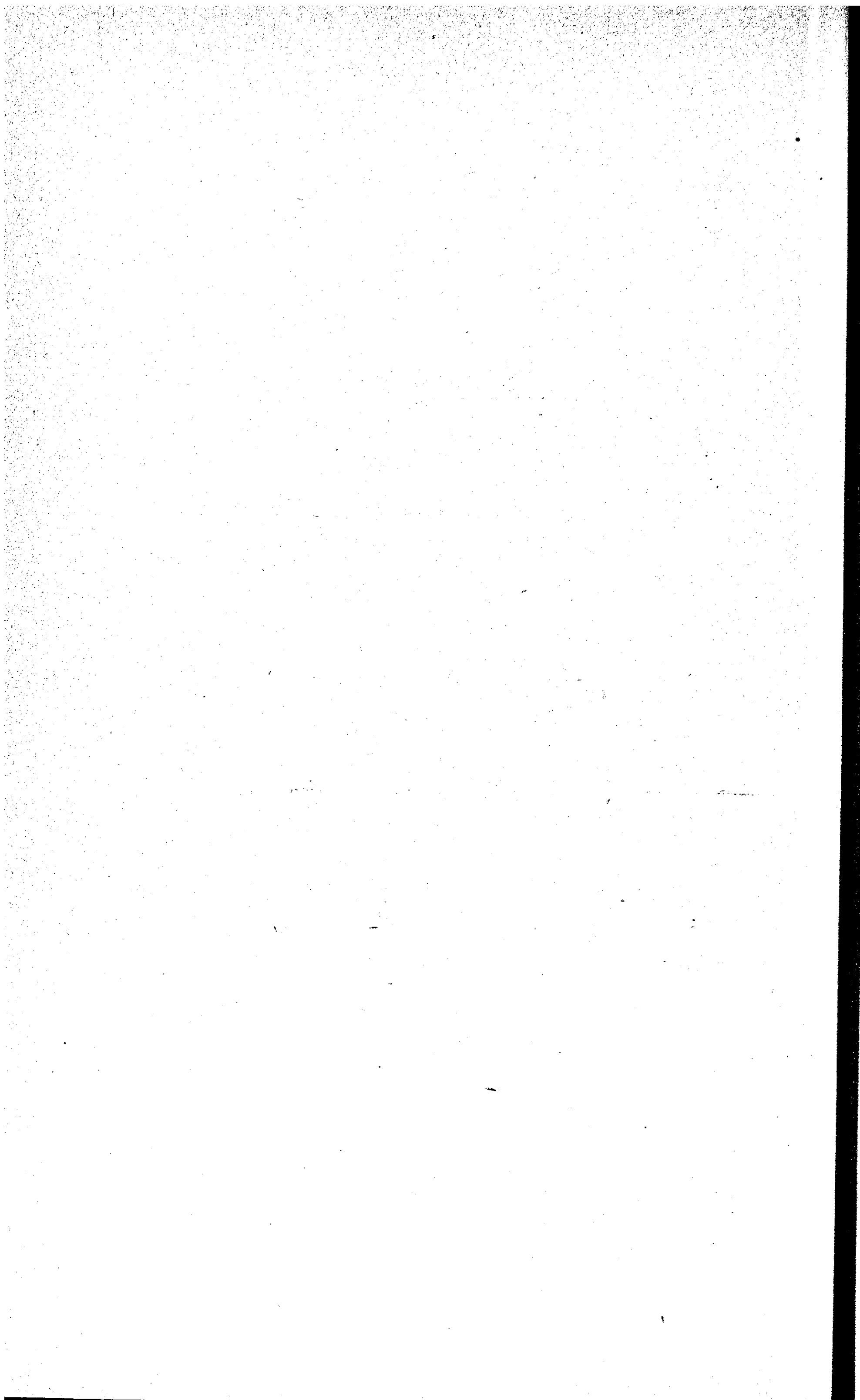


EDITORIAL

This issue of the ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY concludes the History of Talladega by the late Wellington Vandiver.

PIONEER TALLADEGA, ITS MINUTES AND MEMORIES

By Wellington Vandiver



CHAPTER XXVII.

The winter months of 1863 were not passed before the South began to feel more men were needed to carry on the fight. Deaths in hospitals, in battle, and desertions thinned the grey lines to an alarming extent. The law permitting substitutes was repealed. Conscription laws were passed—the enforcement of these conscription laws being confided to General Gideon Pillow in this district. In each town, provost marshall's offices were established, whose business it was to interview every able-bodied man capable of fighting, and to find out why he was not at the front with musket, and to send him there, forcibly, if he had no legal excuse for being at home.

Lieut. J. W. Dorr was provost marshall at Talladega in 1863. A few employments were exempt from military service—ministers of religion, superintendents of asylums, and one editor of each newspaper; the employees in a newspaper establishment; physicians, county commissioners, tax assessors and county treasurers, and all county administrators. Men over the age for military duty were organized into "County Reserves."

The Confederate States made the first grave error of its existence in trying to carry on a great and expensive war solely on credit, without taxation. During the first year of its existence the Confederate Congress neither levied nor collected a cent of taxes, and the second year the collection of taxes was postponed to a period fatally too late to support the credit of the Confederate money issued, and as a consequence our paper money began to depreciate. Silver and gold soon became scarce, then disappeared entirely, and the only money used in trade soon became a Confederate money growing less and less valuable every day. Many merchants and business men issued script, promises to pay, "shinplasters," as it was called, to take the place of depreciated money. Vandiver and Henderson, a drug firm, of Talladega, issued over a half million dollars of these "shinplasters," which passed current all over eastern Alabama, and as far north as the Tennessee line.

As a contemporary estimate of the number of soldiers for this county, we quote an editorial of the Alabama Reporter of issue of Thursday, Oct. 8th, 1863, headed:

"Capt. Bowie's Company," it said: "This command made a good

display on our streets Monday, and from the appearance of men and stock, equipments and appointments, we predict a successful campaign for Capt. (B), and his company.

This makes the sixth (6) cavalry company, exclusive of the Home Guards companies, who have been mustered in as part of the provisional army of the Confederate States. A. W. Bowie, captain; P. L. Griffiths, First Lieut.; C. H. Edmonds, 2nd Lieut.; Wilbur Duncan, 3rd. Lieut."

Without men to cultivate and oversee the fields, and to make crops, all agricultural products grew more and more scarce, and high, and eventually the owners and producers of food stuffs refused to sell the same for Confederate money. Clothing and food could not be shipped here from foreign countries because the ports were blockaded.

1863-4

Flour was worth fifty dollars a barrel, and the cost of sacks for a barrel of flour was \$4.70. This same flour sold in Mobile for one hundred dollars per barrel. (Alabama Reporter, Sept. 3, 1863.)

Women and children only were left to till the fields and raise food. The consequence of this was that there was destitution, want and hunger among the families of soldiers who were at the front. Not only was there lack of food and clothing at home, but the Confederate army was suffering for both of these things, also.

December 7th, 1863, General L. W. Lawler, a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, asked permission of the house to introduce Captain Harris, of the 20th Alabama regiment, General Pettus' Brigade, who desired to state to that body the object of his mission. Leave was granted Captain Harris and he said: "At the instance of General Hardee, he had been hurried from the Army of the Tennessee, to have a conference with the Legislature of Alabama, the object of which was to state that the troops from Alabama in that army were enduring privations, hardships and sufferings for the want of proper raiment, that could not much longer be endured. The general government is unable to alleviate their sufferings." It was a humiliating confession, but it was the truth and it was better the truth should be known. He stated that in the recent battle, fifty of his brigade were unable to take part in the

fight, owing to their being destitute of shoes. He impressed upon the legislature the extreme destitution of the soldiers. It might be well not to state all he said. (Correspondent of the Mobile Tribune, published in the Alabama Reporter, December 24th, 1863.)

In November of this year, the citizens of this county subscribed food and money to aid in supplying the soldier's families. Judge Wm. H. Thornton, probate judge, was chairman of the relief committee. The corn subscribed was to be furnished at fifty cents per bushel. The wheat at two dollars per bushel and salt at twenty dollars per peck. Says the local paper of that date: "Many, however, preferred to donate what they intended to furnish rather than subscribe it at these prices."

The whole amount of corn subscribed was 22,499 bushels. The amount of corn really delivered pursuant to the subscriptions was 2,575 bushels, a little over one-tenth the amount subscribed. Nine hundred and forty bushels of wheat was subscribed, but not enough wheat was delivered to distribute. Six thousand seven hundred and forty-nine dollars cash, Confederate money, was paid, equal at this day to about five hundred dollars of our currency. Of the cash, Judge Thornton sent off \$6,550 to be invested in salt. There were 976 families of soldiers in Talladega county reported as needing assistance. These families numbered 3,513 persons. (Alabama Reporter, November 5th, 1863.)

In the same issue of the paper is an appeal signed by J. K. Elliott, Capt. Co. F; T. H. Patterson, Capt. Co. I; R. J. Cunningham, lieutenant, Co. C; in camp at Demopolis, asking the citizens for "covering," either blankets, coverlids, or carpeting, for the soldiers, adding that if these articles were deposited with General J. G. L. Huey, the citizens would receive ten dollars for each of them.

At this day it is impossible to conceive of the deprivations and inconveniences occasioned in domestic life by the war. The necessary articles of food and dress were almost impossible to obtain, and to a still greater degree was there a scarcity of many common and useful things and articles of luxury. Millinery and toilet articles, ice, wrapping paper, powder and shot, matches, candles, kerosene oil, twines, sewing thread, books, magazines and newspapers were almost unknown. In going to a store to obtain any merchandise, the customer was expected to carry it away without a paper wrapped around it. Druggists could not get vials and bottles. The Watchtower of October 28, 1863, contains a standing

advertisement reading: "Phials! Phials! All persons calling for medicines at our store are requested to bring the phials to put them in as it is impossible for us to procure them.—Vandiver & Henderson."

Calico could not be bought at five dollars per yard. Much homespun was made by hand at home, the materials being wool and cotton. After awhile the small cards used in preparing fabrics for the hand loom became scarce—to a degree that none could be obtained.

The cotton and wool factory in this county belonged to Messrs. Richey and McMillan and was destroyed by fire on Sunday night, November 15, 1863, thus cutting off another source of obtaining thread out of which to weave clothing. The women of our county displayed a self-sacrificing spirit, and a courage under these adverse circumstances which has never been exceeded in the history of the world, although amid the fury of the war storm, black with wrath, beating upon the South, they could see no bow of promise.

The facts showing the forlorn, desperate condition of the struggling South and its people are herein set forth in order that posterity may see the brave race that preceded us, from whom we descended, and lest we forget the privations through which a gently nurtured people passed.

Every mail brought details of battles, sometimes won, sometimes lost, but each one of them taking toll of the "thin grey line," until a large majority of homes in this county was mourning for a man killed, a husband, son, father, friend, or lover. With the men all at the front there was a constant fear of an uprising of the slaves, followed by butchering of the women and children alone left to guard their fireside.

For a long while the foot of the invader stayed distant from us, but before the end came the people of Talladega county had a visible illustration of the horrors of war, in seeing the desolation left in the wake of two Yankee raids.

ROSSEAU'S RAID

On Friday, July 17, 1864, two thousand cavalry under General Rosseau, raided Talladega, being the first Yankees many of the people had ever seen. Six or eight hours notice was had of their coming, and a

large number of our leading citizens hastily departed to the tall timber. A company from the Conscript Camp—stout, able-bodied, stall-fed, fellows, numbering nearly one hundred men, shouldered their rifles and set out to find the raiders in the opposite direction to their coming. Rousseau crossed the Coosa river at Ten Islands where General Clanton, with a small force fired a few shots at them. Alva Hardie, William Stockdale, Tom Childerson and Capt. Joseph Hardie took a shot or two at them as they approached the square. The Reporter's account of it is as follows:

"They delayed in town but an hour or two, and burned the railroad depot, the only building destroyed by them in the county. An order was issued to burn the Commissary building but through the efforts of Dr. Smith, of the Hospital, who represented to them that the burning of the Commissary stores would necessarily involve the destruction of a large portion of the town, and seriously endanger the Hospital, the order was revoked and an effort made to destroy such portions of the stores as they were unable to carry with them. They offered to give them away to any citizen or negroes or any one who would take them away so they would be lost to the government. A considerable amount of the stores were carried away by negroes and some by white persons. They did not burn either the conscript camps or the nitre sheds, we believe for the reason they were afraid of being ambushed or bush-whacked, there being thick woods near the camp and the sheds. A wag suggested a different reason, however, that is that they—the conscript camp—kept so many men out of the army the Yankees were unwilling to destroy it."

Almost every private residence in town was entered, and the bacon from most of the smoke-houses taken off. The corn and oats were also taken. They rode into the yards and fed their horses under the shade trees, along the streets throughout the town. Guards were sent to protect most of the private residences. These guards rendered very efficient service by way of protecting property in the dwelling houses, but did not save the bacon and hams. They took with them a few horses from the town, and some two or three negroes. They had a great dread of bushwhacking, and could talk of nothing else. On leaving they took the Sylacauga road, burning, as they passed, the ginhouse of Hon. Alex White, with one hundred bales of cotton. They fed their horses at Mrs. Hardie's and consumed a quantity of her oats, corn, bacon, etc. At Marsdisville they got several mules. Major Walker Reynolds and his son,

Thomas, lost all their horses and mules, about 50 head; they also lost 12 or 13 negroes. The Yankees moved at the rate of 40 or 50 miles per day.

So great in number were the desertions from the army that it formed the subject of a proclamation by President Jefferson Davis in August, 1863, who says: "The men now absent from their posts would, if present in the field, suffice to create numerical equality between our force and that of the invaders."

Governor John Gill Shorter followed this proclamation by a message to the general assembly on the same theme and pursuant to both these deliverances all absentees were invited to camps of instruction to be furnished with transportation to the army, without punishment for desertion. Major W. T. Walthall, commandant for Alabama, issued his proclamation from Camp Buckner, at Talladega, inviting back the delinquents, not in arrest, but fully and freely discharged from all proceedings against them. "Let bygones be bygones," says Major Walthall in his proclamation, "that past errors may be retrieved and their memory lost in the honors of a brighter future." Many availed themselves of this invitation, and Camp Buckner, at Talladega, was crowded with soldiers during the year 1863, many of whom died with dysentery.

The list of deaths at Talladega Hospital for six months, between January and July, 1864: John Ward, private provost guard; Patrick Considine, private Co. B, camp instruction; Henry Nicks, Co. H, 8th Confederate cavalry; J. W. Thomas, Co. I, 14th Mississippi; W. D. Craddock, Co. I, 8th Confederate; A. M. Williams, Co. K, 9th Texas; A. Mays, Co. G, 50th Tennessee; Thos. A. Blair, Lieutenant Co. A, 1st Missouri; Simon Mack, private Haskin's battery; James Taylor, Co. I, 57th Alabama; James E. Scott, Co. F, 53rd Alabama; James Black, Lieutenant Co. G, 9th Kentucky Cavalry; John Camp, Co. D, camp instruction; R. W. Coleman, Lockhart's battalion; Charles Davis, Clanton's battery; F. Alred, Co. A, camp instruction; John Hopkins, Co. D, 9th Alabama; Geo. W. Dunning, Co. E, 9th Alabama cavalry; J. M. Thompson, Co. F, 15th Tennessee; D. T. Edwards, Co. D, 14th Tennessee.

The Camp of Instruction was situated on Brignolia street, Major W. T. Walthall, commanding, and V. R. Evans, 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant. It was called the conscript camp by the local people. Real soldiers, at home on furlough, held the officers and men of the "conscript

camp" in mighty contempt—an opinion more or less shared in by the villagers. The enrolling officer of the conscripts was Major Joseph Barbieri, a most courtly and polished gentleman, in manner, and Dr. J. W. Grey was the surgeon and "M.D." who examined all those applying for exemption from military service. At this time all men between 18 and 45 were subject to military duty. The war had continued long enough for our people to find out that it was real dangerous and not a picnic, so that large numbers of our studious citizens had found out various means of entering a "bomb-proof," as it was called, or in other words to evade actual service in the field.

One of the published ordinances of the town in an issue of a local paper, the Reporter, of July 14, 1864, renders it "unlawful for any slave or free negro to leave his master's premises at night, or on Sunday, without a pass from his master, stating where the slave was going and how long he was going to stay," and forbidding "night meetings of slaves."

Andrew Lawson, city treasurer, shows that the city received \$3,001.83, as its usual revenues (Confederate money) and paid out all but \$1,400. George P. Plowman was mayor, and H. H. Hamill, clerk, in 1864.

The destitution of soldiers' families became so great that casual contributions and meetings to solicit subscriptions were of but little avail. So, on August 18th, 1864, on the suggestion of Doctor John W. Vandiver, a kindly, humane man, a regular and permanent organization was effected under the name of the "Soldier's Aid and Relief Association," with officers elected as follows: President James W. Hardie; First Vice-President, George S. Walden; Second Vice President, M. H. Cruikshank; Secretary, F. R. Lord; Treasurer, James G. L. Huey, Receiving and Forwarding Committee, Dr. J. H. Vandiver, Jno. B. Huey, Wm. McLane, R. D. Douglass and James Joiner.

This association did much good, remaining in existence until the end of the war, and relieving thousands of suffering soldiers and families of this county. Two representatives of the association were designated in each precinct of the county, men well known for their honesty and benevolence, whose business it was to co-operate with the central association, and collect and forward supplies and money. It doubtless will be interesting to here give these names: Beat 1, Thomas Brewer, Theo. Burns; Beat 2, J. W. Groce, Dr. C. C. Cunningham; Beat 3, W. Y. Hendrick, Lewis Pyles; Beat 4, Dr. B. W. Groce, Wm. Curry, Beat 5, Wm.

R. Stone, J. N. Savery, J. B. M. Landers; Beat 6, M. Taul, L. W. Lawler; Beat 7, Henry Sims, Merritt Ely; Beat 8, E. Swain, I. Stone; Beat 9, Geo. Riser, Simon Morriss; Beat 10, Daniel Wallis, J. H. Townsend; Beat 11, Thos. Smith, Rev. J. J. Bullington; Beat 12, Daniel Brown, William Scott; Beat 13, Ben Saxon, Dr. M. G. Slaughter; Beat 14, Merritt Street, Dr. J. W. Garrison; Beat 15, J. H. Steed, H. A. Manning; Beat 16, Allen Weathers, Thos. Wyatt; Beat 17, Dr. Cantrell, J. W. Burton; Beat 18, M. R. Russell, T. J. Cox; Beat 19, M. J. Cliett, Jared Howard; Beat 20, M. Lyle, N. O. Handley; Beat 21, John Compton, Isaiah Moore.

The preceedings of the organization and first meeting night occupies several columns of the editorial page of the Alabama Reporter of August 18th, 1864. The meeting was held at the Methodist church in Talladega.

CHAPTER XXVIII

The story of the desperate struggle of the people of this county during the Civil War will never be written—no pen is adequate to the task—and yet it should not be relegated to oblivion without some slight chronicle of its stress and suffering. A memorial to Thos. Watts, Governor of Alabama, adopted at a public meeting of the people of Talladega on April 4th, 1864, gives a brief glance at the conditions of that dark and hopeless time. Hon. Jno. T. Heflin presided at the meeting and Capt. Jos. Hardie was secretary, and Hon. L. E. Parsons, explained the object of the meeting.

Among other statements made in the memorial the following is quoted:

"This county has furnished 27 companies of volunteers for the war. These were raised under a pledge publicly given that the citizens would raise, if necessary, twenty thousand dollars a year to aid in supporting the families of those who needed assistance. at that time (May, 1861) there was a white population in the county of about 14,643 persons, and a slave population of about 8,865, and there were only thirty persons who needed and received aid from the county. Now, there are three thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven (3,997). The county is divided into what is called the "valley" and "hills." A large proportion of these volunteers came from the hills, and these

27 companies are exclusive of those who have volunteered in other organizations, furnished substitutes, or been enrolled. The slave population is in the valley and the men who have gone from the hills have left at home none to plough a furrow, or to hoe a hill of corn except their wives and little ones. They are, therefore, dependent for support on the supplies raised in the valley. During 1863, the people of the county under the pledge aforesaid, raised and placed in the probate judge's hands for distribution, \$7,276 cash; 21,755 bushels of corn at 50 cents per bushel; 2,570 bushels of corn as a gift; 928 bushels of wheat at \$2. per bushel; 102 bushels of wheat as a gift; the average price of wheat, corn and salt is much above these prices. The average price of wheat this season has been about \$10 per bushel; corn about \$3 per bushel and salt about \$80 per sack. The committee states we will be unable to meet the just claims, the absolute necessities of these families unless they are permitted to employ the slave labor for that purpose.

"On December 23rd, 1862, ninety negroes were impressed in this county. On January 29th, 1863, 120 negroes were impressed. On March 7, 1863, 150 more negroes were impressed, and five wagons and teams. In the fall of 1863, 160 more negroes were impressed. In August, 1863, about 100 negroes and teams were impressed and sent to Montevallo to haul coal and iron. In February, 1864, 160 more negroes, who are now in Mobile. In August 1863, 75 horses were impressed. Within a few days past Captain Graham, under order from Lieutenant General Polk, has been here and has impressed about 160 horses and 100 mules, claiming and exercising the right to take every seventh mule. Moreover, a large proportion of the work oxen of the county have been obtained for the use of the Confederate government. Large bodies of cavalry are recruiting their horses at various points in the county, and thus consuming the tax in kind.

"The season has been backward, and corn that has been planted will have to be planted over again. On the 2nd inst, (April) a new order arrived to impress 160 more negroes and have them ready by the 17th of the month.

"The premises considered, the undersigned respectfully request an order from your Excellency to General Polk exempting this county from further impressment this season.

('Signed) L. E. Parsons, Chairman, Taul Bradford, W. R. Stone, Alex White, C. G. Cunningham, J. L. Elston, John Sawyer.')

The impressment circular of General Polk is published in the same issue of the paper containing the account of the meeting. General Polk had his headquarters at Demopolis, and was commanding general of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana. The circular is couched in terms so arbitrary, unjust and tyrannical, that nothing but war would justify such language or measures.

As a last resort the Confederate Congress provided for the enlistment of slaves as soldiers, and, pursuant to that act, Brigadier General John T. Morgan, afterward United States Senator, was assigned the duty of organizing these slaves in Alabama. His letter on the subject is printed in the Alabama Reporter of April 13, 1865, being dated Montgomery, Ala., April 7, 1865.

General Morgan says he has authority to designate recruiting stations and to appoint recruiting officers. Talladega was named as a recruiting station. One-fourth of the slave population between the ages of 18 and 45, only, were subject to enlistment. The title of the owner in the slave was not effected by his enlistment. The same pay, rations, and clothing was allowed as for other troops in the same line of service. Says General Morgan in his circular: "Our slaves will make good soldiers if properly cared for and well handled: they will fight for us, and with us with a faithfulness and devotion peculiar to their 'characters.'"

Fasting and prayer, the last refuge of the despairing, was officially ordered when the Confederate congress on January 16, 1865, asked President Davis to appoint a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, with thanksgiving to almighty God. Says President Davis, in appointing March 10th as the day: "Let the hearts of our people turn contritely and trustfully unto God. Let us recognize in his chastening hand the correction of a Father and submissively pray that the trials and suffering which we have borne so long and so heavily borne upon us may be turned away by his merciful love. That the Lord of Hosts will be with our armies, and fight for us against the enemies and that He will graciously take our cause into his own hands."

This proclamation and injunction was strictly followed in Talladega. There was an all day prayer meeting at the Methodist church under the leadership of Revs. Daniel Duncan and R. B. Crawford, the prayers beginning at sunrise. A sermon at both the Baptist and Methodist churches was preached at 11 o'clock, in each of which many prophecies

and texts were quoted to show that the Confederate cause would yet receive the aid and help of the Almighty. But the closing days of April, 1865, showed the futility of such predictions. Friday, April 21, 1865, just five days before Johnston's surrender to Sherman, and eleven days after Lee's surrender, the second Yankee raid visited Talladega.

The Alabama Reporter of April 27, which was then issued on one single sheet of paper, with five columns of printed matter on each of its two pages, record the details of the raid thus:

"THE RAID."

"Our town has been visited by another party of Yankee raiders. On Friday night, last, it was ascertained that the Yankees were crossing the Coosa river at Collins and Truss ferries, and it was believed would reach Talladega that night. They were delayed in crossing the river and did not enter the town until Saturday evening (afternoon). Colonel Hughes, with about 100 men, met them near town and, after a short skirmish, fell back through town, the enemy pursuing at a pretty rapid rate.

"The raiding party consisted of a brigade of cavalry under General Croxton, numbering about 2,100. Our county jail, the railroad depot, government depot, conscript camps and the nitre sheds were burned. The stores were broken open and robbed. Many of our citizens suffered severely in the loss of mules, horses and other valuables. Some negroes went off with them, but not a very large number. Most of the private residences in town were entered, and searched for valuables. All the watches, silverware, plate, etc., that had not been previously removed, was taken, and carried off. Colonel Hugh Caperton, formerly of DeKalb county, a most estimable man, and exemplary citizen, residing about five miles from town, was shot through the window of his own home, by one of a squad of Yankees, and died almost instantly. No cause can be assigned for the cold-blooded, and wanton act. Major G. P. Plowman, mayor of the town, was knocked down with a gun barrel, and was severely injured by a crowd who were endeavoring to extort from him money, which a negro had told them he had concealed. They subsequently returned for the purpose of hanging Mr. Plowman, but he succeeded in effecting his escape. Mrs. X. Willman, a worthy lady, was choked down, and compelled to bring,

and deliver, a little bag of gold and silver, the savings from the hard earnings of years.

"The commissary building was not burned, the stores having been turned over to Judge Thornton, Hon. Wm. H. Thornton, our Probate Judge, to be distributed to the poor of the county. The Judge is executing the trust in good faith. A quantity of bacon was consumed by the burning of the tax-in-kind depot. At Mrs. Curry's, six miles from town, they burned some cotton, the old store house and a crib containing about 1,000 bushels of corn. The iron establishment of Clabaugh and Curry was destroyed, as were the other iron establishments in the neighborhood of Oxford, Calhoun county, Alabama. The Yankees left our town on Sunday morning and moved in the direction of Oxford.

"Mr. Reece Howell, Colonel L. E. Parsons, W. W. Knox, Dr. A. P. McClellen and others lost nearly all their mules and horses."

On Thursday morning, May 11, 1865, the Alabama Reporter, edited by Cross and Cruikshank, with a motto: "Justitia et Veritas," and twenty dollars in advance, officially announces that the war is over. Many old subscribers of this paper could not have been convinced of the ending of the war in any other way.

That paper said, editorially: "Alabama, with all the territory east of the Mississippi, has been surrendered to the Federal authorities. The war may be regarded as over. The question is frequently asked as to what should now be done. Our advice is that the people should remain quietly at their homes and apply themselves diligently to the culture of crops necessary to the sustenance of man and beast. It will be difficult to raise sufficient grain to supply the county. Confederate money will no longer circulate, and people can barter one commodity for another."

Do not suppose for a moment that this tremendous announcement paralyzed the men of Talladega county. They yet lived, especially those who wanted to fill offices. This same issue contains an average crop of announcements for office. M. J. Bulger announces for governor, M. H. Cruikshank says in print that he is a candidate for congress. For senator: L. W. Lawler, Jas. W. Hardie. For representative: W. D. Steed, Lewis E. Parsons, Maj. Geo. P. Plowman, Jno. A. Winnbourn, Augustine Moss, Dr. John Garrison. For sheriff: James T. Dye, Arthur Bingham. For tax assessor: Jas. A. Hogan; For tax collector: M. S. Bennett, W. W.

Wilkins. For county commissioners: George Riser, Saml. D. Watson, Meritt Street, E. C. Turner, L. M. Burney, John Sawyer, R. M. Henderson, Jesse Hardin. The election to be held the first Monday in August.

It was supposed at this time by these candidates that Alabama would be taken back into the Union, and the state and county affairs administered by persons then in office, and to be elected by the people, but the military government superseded this.

Brevet Brigadier General M. H. Chrysler, on May 24, 1865, announces the occupation of Talladega by the Union States forces, for the preservation of good order, the protection of citizens, and to enable the people to obtain supplies for their families. The regiment quartered here was the Fourth New York Cavalry. The staff of General Chrysler was Robt. Barber, adjutant; G. W. Becker, provost marshal; C. Dolan, outpost officer; C. W. Johnson, A.A.Q.M.; S. F. Taylor, A.C.S.; Lieutenant H. D. Doty, A. C. O. On June 1st a train on the Alabama and Tennessee River Railroad (Southern) again began to run, bringing in a budget of newspapers and letters—none of them later than April 1st. The local papers hoped that the postoffice would again be opened in a short while.

In General Order, No. 3, General Chrysler notifies the "Colored population of Talladega, and vicinity, that they will not be allowed to straggle about the country." They are advised "to remain at home and raise corn to feed their wives and children. All unemployed persons of this class will be organized and worked in the Quartermaster's Department. Any pilaging will be severely punished."

It was necessary for all former Confederates soldiers to be paroled before Provost Marshall Captain Becker. By June 15th 6410 officers and enlisted men had presented themselves at the provost marshal's office in Talladega and had been paroled. Of course not all of these troops were from Talladega county, but were portions of scattered commands passing through to their respective homes.

At first the advent of these Federal troops as a garrison was looked upon as a misfortune, and as a humiliation, by our citizens, but this feeling wore off as time passed and it was seen that the Northern soldiers were really a protection to us during these unsettled and disorganized times. One incident, in September, 1865, tended to inspire a better

feeling for the soldiers by the citizens. The home of Dr. A. I. McAlpine caught fire on Sunday, which, when it was discovered by the soldiers, many of who were fire-fighters, they literally covered the roof and balconies with men, organized a bucket brigade, and put out a fire that the citizens could not have handled. The local papers grudgingly gave the Yankees praise for their efforts, and then proceeded to howl for the town to buy a hand fire engine. The Reporter philosophically remarks after a half column description of the fire: "The few old pails, and buckets that can be hunted up, after an alarm is given, is a poor dependance for a fire department in a town of 2,000 inhabitants. We have again and again called attention to this during the past ten years. We do not suppose that all the citizens of the town put together have money enough, now, to buy even a small fire engine, but if they are ever able to do so, they ought, certainly to make some provision for extinguishing fires."

During the war the post office was situated in the middle of the block on the west side of the square, Postmaster Isaac Estill serving as custodian of the mail for four years previous to the war and during its continuance. In September, 1865, James Lawson was appointed postmaster, upon which happening the site of the office was changed to the northwest corner of the square in the rear of the Coker building. James Chetlain was the U. S. Army postmaster, the said Chetlain advertising that the mails would leave Talladega Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week, and that all citizens' mail, if left in the city postoffice, would be sent to all parts of the United States with the military mail.

After the military occupation of Talladega, two months elapsed before Civil government, or government by state and county, was established. June 21, 1865, President Andrew Johnson appointed Hon. L. E. Parsons of Talladega, provisional governor of Alabama. Governor Parsons called a convention to make a constitution and laws for the state. Persons who were not (sic) qualified to vote for delegates to this convention were also required to swear to support the constitution of the United States. Joseph D. McCann, A. Cunningham and Jno. W. Bishop were elected by a convention in this county, as the delegates to the State convention. The same county convention recommended Jno. Henderson for circuit judge and Jno. W. Bishop for solicitor. The chairman of this county convention was Jno. W. Bishop, while William Montgomery was the secretary. Jno. C. Henderson was at this time sheriff of the county. Governor Parsons appointed N. P. Plowman, sheriff to succeed Henderson. A. W. Plowman was also appointed by the governor as com-

missioner, to administer oaths in Talladega county: R. W. Huston, clerk of the circuit court; W. H. Thornton, Judge of probate.

Slowly commerce began to revive and advertisements were once more seen in the newspapers. The veteran drug firm of Vandiver & Henderson, that had kept open during the entire war, announced a new stock of drugs. Jos. Hardie and Co., in Isbell's brick corner, advertises dry goods and groceries. Leason and Pflaumm ask patronage for clothing, hats, boots and shoes. M. H. Dysart, on east side of the square, wishes to sell: "Boots, Hats, Matches, Cotton Cards, Indigo, Salt, Hoopskirts, etc." D. L. Anderson offers dry goods and groceries, one door above Huey's corner. T. T. Warwick, watch maker, has a card in the paper. D. A. Long has dry goods and groceries. The Baptist Male High School, with W. D. Lovett, principal, announces its opening. Drs. J. C. Knox and J. H. Johnson, physicians, offer their partnership services to the people. Todd Bros., at Story's Corner, advertise a general stock of goods. W. H. Coker prints a list of groceries for sale. M. Solomon has dry goods on the southeast corner of the square and C. Pelham and A. W. Plowman have law cards in the paper.

CHAPTER XXIX.

The location of the buildings used by the Confederate States during the war, as well as the spot where munitions, supplies or ammunition was manufactured for the use of the Confederate States, is known to us, not entirely from tradition but from the list given in libel and attachment proceedings issued by the Federal Court,¹ signed by John Hardy, Marshal, and published in an issue of a local paper of November 9th, 1865, wherein steps are taken by the Federal Government to confiscate the property formerly used by the Confederate States.

1st. One large two-story brick building—drug store of Vandiver and Henderson.

2nd. One large two-story brick building, on west side of East street—known as the Talladega Insurance building, said to be the property of Curry, Huey and others.

¹See Appendix.

4th. Wooden building and shed, on east side of East street, known as the Tax in Kind Warehouse, said to be the property of Huey and others.

5th. Ten acres of land on north side of Alabama and Tennessee Railroad, commencing 300 yards above Talladega depot, known as Confederate States Nitre Works: owners unknown.

6th. Twenty acres, more or less, one-fourth mile north of Alabama and Tennessee Railroad, and one-half mile north of Talladega, known as Camp Buckner.—Property of J. G. L. Huey.

7th. Lower story of brick building on north side of North street, known as Sturdevant's Gun Factory, said to be the property of John. H. Vandiver.

8th. Lower story of building on North side of North street, known as Curry's store.

9th. Wooden building on North street, known as Morgan and Bishop's office, said to be the property of Estate of Thos. L. Owen.

10th. Wooden building on north side of North street, known as office of Charles G. Samuel.

11th. One wooden building, and dwelling house attached, on east side of East street, near railroad depot, known as Riggs Warehouse, said to be the property of Thos. Hayden.

12th. One wooden building with brick basement, on Northeast corner of Court and North streets known as Pitts corner, said to belong to Thomas Clark.

13th. Blacksmith shop, corner West and Battle streets, known as Rhodes shop.

14th. Brick blacksmith shop, south side of Battle street, known as S. D. Watson's shop.

15th. One-story building on corner of Battle and Court streets, known as Porter's Hall, said to belong to H. M. Porter.

16th. The Exchange Hotel said to belong to estate of John Donahoo, and others.

17th. Wooden building on south side of Battle street, known as John K. Taylor's shop.

18th. One stable, two-story wooden building, on south side of Battle street, property of Dr. William Edwards.

19th. Wooden building, two acres of land, between Battle and North streets, known as Lot No. 78, and Eason's residence, property of B. W. Groce.

2th. Wooden Livery Stable, west side of East street known as F. M. Thomason's Livery Stable.

At the time these proceedings were instituted it was claimed that wherever a citizen had permitted his property to be used in any way by the Confederate Government; either for storage, barracks, manufactory, or otherwise, then the property was forfeited to the United States Government, and it should be confiscated, sold, and the proceeds paid into the United States Treasury. In some way the citizens affected by these proceedings succeeded in preventing the forfeiture. Just how it was done is not known, as the parties themselves were quite reticent about the matter.

At the election held in this county in November, 1865, twelve hundred and fifty votes, only, were polled, Bulger, for governor, winning over Patton, and Smith Battle receiving a majority for congress. James Montgomery received, for the state senate, 760 votes, against only 402 for M. G. Slaughter. For representative, C. P. Plowman, 940; J. D. McCann, 816; J. W. Hardie, 788; Wm. McPherson, 620; For sheriff, N. P. Plowman, 617; J. M. Nelson, 300; J. T. Dye, 259; D. C. McCain, 92; B. J. McCain, 35; For Circuit clerk, R. W. Huston, 757; J. S. Shaw, 383; S. J. Morris, 228; For Tax collector, J. S. Hubbard, 693, W. W. Wilkins, 562. For tax assessor, Jas. A. Hogan, (unopposed) 1,159. For county commissioners, Jno. Sawyer, 589; R. M. Henderson, 524; J. L. Barnhill, 512; R. A. McMillan 438.

Micah Taul, of Talladega county, was elected secretary of the state senate on Monday, November 20th, 1865.

The only appearance of a city government was a notice signed by Giles Pitts, marshal, announcing that there would be an election for mayor and alderman, on December 30th, 1865. The following named gentlemen will please act as judges: Abner Jones, Wm. M. Kennedy and J. M. Thornton. There were two tickets in the field. One reading: For mayor, M. H. Cruikshank. For aldermen: Geo. S. Walden, Jas. S. Chambers, R. M. Henderson, Dr. J. H. Johnson, D. L. Anderson, R. A. McMillan, C. G. Samuel. And the other ticket naming the following persons: For mayor, R. A. Moseley, Jr. For Aldermen: A. Lawson, J. B. Huey, T. J. Cross, Dr. J. H. Johnson, P. A. Stamps, H. H. Hamill, C. Pelham. The Moseley ticket was elected.

The number of indigent and destitute white families was further augmented by hundreds of negroes who, being freed by the result of war, ceased from labor in the fields and came to town there to loiter and steal. So alarming was the situation that Provisional Governor Parsons in January, 1866, accompanied by General Wager, Swayne, assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, etc., in this state, went to Washington, and secured a promise from the Federal Government of aid. The legislature of the state provided for the appointment of a commissioner to aid General Swayne in the receipt and distribution of supplies. Under this act Hon. M. H. Cruikshank, of Talladega, was appointed by the governor to act as commissioner for Alabama.

General Swayne made a requisition for thirteen thousand five hundred rations daily for the month of January, which were distributed as follows: Five thousand from Huntsville; three thousand from Mobile; two thousand from Selma; two thousand from Montgomery; one thousand from Talladega, and five hundred from Greenville. Seeing that this supply was inadequate an increased estimate was made of fifteen thousand rations daily for the month of February. The counties of Talladega, St. Clair, Calhoun and Randolph, were supplied from Talladega.

The idle and lazy of both races collected at Talladega to really enjoy life at the expense of a beneficial government. It was practically impossible to buy corn, wheat, salt or breadstuffs. There had been a total failure to plant a crop during the confusion that immediately preceded the downfall of the Confederacy, the few railroads penetrating the South were out of commission, so the food could not be shipped in. The consequence of this state of affairs being that this section was in danger of starvation.

The Alabama Reporter, of July 19, 1866, contains a letter from M. H. Cruikshank, commissioner for the destitute of Alabama, in which it appears that Patton had just returned from a trip to the Northwest, where he had succeeded in purchasing, with the bonds of the state, about fifty thousand bushels of corn and that the states of Missouri and Illinois had been very liberal in contributions to starving Alabamians. He, Cruikshank, concludes his letter by saying: "While returning thanks to the generous donors for their deeds of charity, we trust that they will be rewarded by the assurance that they have aided in furnishing bread for many a starving family, and cheered with a ray of sunlight, many a cabin, long darkened by the thick shadows of adversity."

The officers of the garrison stationed at Talladega in 1866—the 4th New York Regiment—and the superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau, distributed supplies but when the regiment was mustered out the issue of rations to the destitute was suspended. The Reporter, of April 26, 1866, notes that a new superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau, Major Theune, has been appointed, and that Colonel C. Cade, General Swayne's adjutant had telegraphed for supplies for Talladega's destitute.

Not only was there great destitution in Talladega county immediately after the close of the war, but in all the tier of northern counties there were similar conditions. Cherokee county being particularly poverty stricken. The Alabama Reporter, of September 13, 1866, copies a pathetic appeal as published in the Montgomery Advertiser from that county, being the proceedings of a public meeting in Centre, participated in by the leading men. The report of the committee appointed to advise a course of action is indeed despairing. The committee said: "On account of the drought prevailing here and in the State of Georgia the bread supply has been so thoroughly cut off that a famine, without relief from other sources, is inevitable. The people have worked hard but have no money and no means of raising money, and the people need not look for state aid because of the inability of the state to pay taxes. Since there is no longer any hope of relief from public contributions or private charity, they recommend a removal to more favored localities where bread can be had for labor." The names signed to this statement comprise the leading men of the county, among them being Chancellor S. K. McSpadden, formerly of Talladega; Hon. J. L. Cunningham, father of Mrs. Wellington Vandiver; State Senator from that district, Thos. B. Cooper; W. L. Whitlock, afterward circuit judge, and others.

A "stay Law" was passed under the provisions of which no judgment against a person owing a debt could be obtained for twelve months.

This destitution did not come on suddenly but accumulated during the slow, miserable, suffering years of the struggle. On October 1st, 1863, an editorial in the Reporter of that date uses this language: "Our Poor. There is hardly a female in the county but has her father, brother or son battling in the army for her rights, and it is right that we should do something to alleviate their suffering, that will most assuredly come upon them this winter. Even in our very town, with affluence and elegant ease surrounding them, there are many objects for our consideration. There is not a day passes that we do not see some woman or child without shoes. Now we ask, how in the world are they going to get them this winter? How are they going to get jeans for coats and pants? Jeans has opened at ten dollars per yard, with no telling what it will bring by Christmas! The women can't buy cal'co at five dollars per yard. And they can't make even homespun. Some have cotton cards, and some have none! And not one in ten have the wool or cotton, allowing they had the wherewith to card it. Let us be up and doing. Let us feed and clothe the women and children while the men are fighting."

Early in February, 1866, the east side of the public square in Talladega was burned down, leaving but one building—the Storey brick store on the northeast corner—standing. From the local page of the Reporter, of February 15, 1866, the following information is obtained:

"We observe that the Messrs. McMillan are the first to commence cleaning up the rubbish in the burned district on the east side of the square. We are gratified to learn that they intend erecting a handsome and substantial brick building on the site of the old one.

"The building that stood on the southeast corner was, we believe, the first brick building ever erected in the town. In the days when the Inidans remained in the county it was occupied as a store house by Colonel William Hogan, called by the Indians, 'Sneezer' Hogan. The word 'sneezer' signifying merchant or trader. On several occasions when alarms were given, and fears of hostile movements on the part of the Indians prevailed, the women and children of the town were collected together and 'forted' in the old brick store.

"The old brick that stood on the west side of the square fell down

during a storm about a year ago, and was the second brick building in the town. Our enterprising townsman, Joe Savery, who carried the chain when the town lots were first surveyed, is just rearing a large frame building on the spot."

Chancellor Samuel K. McSpadden held the first session, spring term, 1866, of the Chancery Court, following the war. Chancellor McSpadden was raised, or practically spent his young manhood in Talladega. He was a saddler by trade, apprenticed to P. D. Simmons, and he was always proud of his ability in his trade. Years before the war he removed to Cherokee county and married Miss Charlsie Garrett, a first cousin of Mrs. Smma McAfee Vandiver, of Talladega. The Garretts were leading people in that section, the father of Charlsie Garrett holding the appointment under the federal government of Indian agent and owning the magnificent ferry and farm one mile from Centre. McSpadden rose to be colonel of a regiment during the war, and was captured while charging the enemy.

At this court Mr. J. T. May, who had recently removed from Columbus, Ga., and Mr. Box, from St. Clair, (afterward superintendent of education of the state, and circuit judge), were admitted to the bar. On Thursday morning, February 15th, 1866, the local papers state that "the thermometer is reported to have been as low as twenty degrees, showing extraordinary weather for this latitude."

The State Union Convention, which met at Selma, August 2nd, 1866, contained the following Talladega delegates: N. D. Johnson, Jas. Mallory, J. R. Blewster, W. S. Chapman, Jas. Hardie, A. Cunningham, Micah Taul, L. W. Lawler, W. B. McClellen, Jas. Isbell, Walker Reynolds, Isaac Stone.

This convention approved the restoration policy of President Andrew Johnson, as opposed to the radical policy of Congress, and named delegates to the National Union Convention at Philadelphia, August 14th, as follows: Hon. L. E. Parsons and Alex White, from the State-at-large, and M. H. Cruikshank of Talladega, from the Third Congressional District.

County Courts for the trial of misdemeanors were established in 1866. Probate Judge Thornton, in a card thanking the voters for having elected him probate judge, dated May 21, 1866, says: "Under the

Penal Code I shall, after the first day of June, next, be ex-officio judge of the county court, for the trial of misdemeanors, etc. I shall enter upon the duties thereof with dread and apprehension, but with a firm determination to discharge the duties of both offices with fidelity and without partiality."

Much was expected of this court, which was virtually abolished in Talladega county when the city court system was established about 1896. The local papers contain quite a full account of the first session of the first county court, as follows, dated July 5, 1866: "The first court for our county under the new Criminal Code was held on Monday, last. His Honor, Judge Thornton, presided. We dropped in a little while and found the judge busily engaged in dispatching fifteen cases on his docket. In the kindest manner instructing the new witnesses as to the nature and obligation of an oath, the importance of telling the truth, etc. Strange to say, of the fifteen cases, there was only one for larceny—a colored woman for stealing seven hanks of thread. The woman, it was shown, had several small children, and it would require all her time to support them. She could not go to jail, for there was no one to look after the children. She could not be put to work for the county, because the children have to be cared for. Cases of this kind will be constantly arising under the new system, and it is difficult to know how to dispose of them. There were three cases of assault and battery by ex-Federal officers upon freedmen, and one of a freedman upon a freedman. One case of forcible trespass, freedman upon white lady. One case of forcible entry of ex-Federal officer upon freedman. Four or five cases of vagrancy (freedmen, we believe), completed the docket. We have been thus particular, as it is the first county court for criminal purposes ever held under the new system in our county."

The Young Men's Benevolent Association, was an organization wide in its scope, and still more catholic in its practices, containing among its membership many of the young soldiers who survived the war, and a still larger number who realized the advantages of organization. This association raised money by subscription, and with entertainments; acted as a patrol, or quasi vigilance committee; assisted the needy; cared for the sick, and debated large questions. Among the themes discussed, in August, 1866, at a special meeting at the court house, Chairman J. M. Thornton, presiding, J. F. Shanklin, secretary, was "The propriety of our people engaging as teachers and instructors of the children of the freedmen in our midst."

On motion of G. K. Miller, a committee was appointed to draft suitable resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the association in the premises. The president appointed G. K. Miller, J. Morgan Smith, Thos. Henderson, Charles Pelham, J. F. Shanklin, and H. A. Chadborn. The resolutions were lengthy, but the substance of the conclusions reached were that the "black race should receive at our hands whatever education he may be susceptible of receiving, and the association suggests and recommends to persons of limited means, having capacity for teaching, the acceptance, as both honorable and praiseworthy, of positions as teachers and instructors of Freedmen," and furthermore the association promised to give encouragement to any persons who, honestly and in good faith, are striving to gain a livelihood as teachers of freedmen.

On motion of C. Pelham, it was resolved that the minutes of this meeting be published in the Talladega papers. The C. Pelham making this motion was a law partner of Governor Parsons, and served as circuit judge of this circuit for two terms.

The local papers of August, 1866, contained one column devoted to law cards in the order which follows:

Bishop and Winbourn, Bradford and Isbell, A. W. Plowman, James B. Martin, Samuel and Jones, Parsons and Pelham, J. T. May, Thomas Hayden, N. S. McAfee, John C. Duncan, G. K. Miller, Thomas Henderson, M. H. Cruikshank.

Friday, Sept. 7th, 1866, the town was, for the third time, visited by fire which destroyed one side of its square. The fire originated in the two-story frame building on the southeast corner of the square, known as the P. D. Simmonds building. The blaze was discovered at one o'clock in the morning. It was occupied by Zalenski, as a dry goods and clothing store. Zalenski left town on the Southern railroad on the night of the fire, a few hours before the alarm was given. It is evident from what the local papers say of it that it was thought Mr. Zalenski could tell how the fire originated. Here is the portion of the local item relating to this subject: "It is not known how the fire originated, but Mr. Zalenski left on the up train about eleven o'clock, on the night of the fire, and a light was seen in his store by passengers who came up to the train a little after 11 o'clock, and we understand that Zalenski had an insurance of \$3,000 on his goods. The calamity falls hard on Judge McAfee, he having been burned out in January, last, on the east side of the square, and

having no insurance on either of them. This burning takes the last house on this side of the square."

Once more schools began to be established. Southwood Classical School, at Talladega, opened with Alex S. Paxton, of Washington College, Va., as principal. The Synodical Collegiate Female Institute had for its principal A. Spencer. Plantersville Institute was conducted by A. H. Todd. Messrs. Cleveland and Chessman announce a dancing school at the Exchange hotel. Miss Clementina Snow opened a school at the residence formerly occupied by Mr. Fant, for young ladies. The Baptist High School was in operation. Miss Kathleen McConnell taught a school for small children. "Uncle Billy" Lewis had a neighborhood school at his home, three miles northeast of Talladega, and there was a small school at Sylacauga.

August 15th, 1866, the fact is made known that a brass band has recently been started in our town under the management of Mr. Charles Smith. "We understand that Mr. Smith is a performer of undoubted merit, and perseverance."

This is the comment of the local paper of that date: "It seems hard that after Talladega had endured fire and war, pestilence and famine, that her cup of misery should be filled to overflowing with the addition of an amateur brass band, learning to play in our midst, led by a man who is traveling under the name of Smith—a performer of 'perseverance.'"

If an indignant and long-suffering people lynched "perservering" Smith and his tooting companions, no mention is made of it in the local annals.

CHAPTER XXX

The religious and social life of the people in 1866 began to resume its former tenor. The Coosa River Baptist Association met at Oxford, in September. The introductory sermon being preached by Rev. J. J. D. Renfroe. Delegates were selected to the Baptist State Convention as follows: J. J. D. Renfroe, Daniel Wallace, Rev. S. G. Jenkins, Rev. E. T. Smythe, C. G. Samuel, W. S. Chapman, Jas Headen, J. W. Bishop,

Abner Williams, Rev. W. C. Mynatt, Rev. A. M. Spalding, Rev. Wm. McCain and J. H. Joiner.

The Methodist District Conference met in Talladega on December 5th, 1866, Bishop Wightmen, L. L. D., presiding, and being the guest of Dr. John H. Vandiver, an ardent Methodist, whose house was the ever ready shelter for the ministers of that faith.

The principal question of public interest debated in this District conference was its refusal to acquiesce in the recommendations of the General conference recommending a change in the name of the Methodist Church, South.

The First Christmas tree that our children ever saw was exhibited in the second story of the Baptist College (now Talladega College) December 25, 1866. The advertisement says: "On Tuesday night, the 25th inst, the Talladega Baptist Sunday school will have a Christmas tree in the second story of the Baptist College. The rooms will be thoroughly cleaned, decorated, and warmed with comfortable fires. The privilege of placing presents on the tree is open to the public generally. The following named ladies will receive presents, if sent in by two o'clock next Tuesday evening: Mrs. N. S. McAfee, Mrs. M. B. Moseley, Mrs. E. Elston, Mrs. Fannie Macon, Mrs. Fanny Rice, Misses Clem Snow, Eugenia Claibough, Mattie Prentice, Anna Pitts, Eliza Lee, Seppie Barclay."

The Independent Cornet Band advertises an exhibition at the chapel of the Baptist Institute on Friday night, assisted by the Talladega Historionics, at which time will be presented "Marietta—An Indian Tragedy in three acts," a sequel to "White Cloud." The tragedy to be followed by an amusing farce entitled "Wonderful Mesmeric Irishman." Major Philander Morgan, of Talladega, wrote "White Cloud" which was played previously to this by the young amateurs of the city, including Messrs. Jenkins, McAfee, McCann, G. K. Miller and others, and "Marietta" was written by a "gentleman of the town" as a sequel to this play.

Rev. A. B. McCorkle advertises that Dr. Lowry, of Selma, will preach in the chapel of the Presbyterian Institute. In numbers and wealth the Presbyterians had rather the advantage of the other denominations until a number of years after the war.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bailey announce a dancing school, with them-

selves as teachers, at the Exchange Hotel, but owing to the pious proclivities of the Talladega people a dancing school was rather a precarious way of earning a living.

Sunday school picnics abounded and were annual events, each church having the picnic at a time different from its sister denomination, as it was rank apostasy for a Methodist child to attend a Baptist picnic, and vice-versa. There was no good feeling, Christian charity, or fellowship among the denominations of those days, but on the contrary, feeling ran high, and religious debates, ecclesiastical controversies, wherein the speaker poured unsparing abuse upon his rival denomination, were quite common. These debates were advertised for days previously and were largely attended by earnest Christian people who individually and collectively thought each of them would reach heaven only through his own church, and that the other fellow, who did not belong to his congregation, was through-ticketed to hell.

In 1867 the Acts of Congress in reference to the Southern States were prefaced with the statement that no legal State government or adequate protection for life and property now existed in the Rebel States, therefore Congress recognized the existing state governments as provisional, and proceeded to establish a Military Supervisory Government, under Maj. John Pope, for Alabama. Under this military supervisory arrangement provisions were made for the registration of voters, each voter who applied to register being obliged to take a long oath that he had never been an officer, civil or military in Alabama, and afterward engaged in rebellion, or given aid or comfort to the enemies of the United States. The registration board for Talladega county consisted of J. A. J. Sims, E. T. Childers, and Yancey Sims. The first two named being white, the last one, a negro. Eleven hundred and seventeen white men enrolled themselves, or registered themselves in this county, while eighteen hundred and eleven negroes registered, making a total vote of 2,828. The Town of Talladega had 205 white registered voters and 455 negro voters. Many county and state officials were arbitrarily removed by the military authorities and the places of those deposed were filled, in many instances, by men totally ignorant of the duties of the place. Loyal Leagues or Union Leagues were organized, an oath-bound, secret, political society in which the negro members were drilled to vote as the leaders dictated.

CHAPTER XXXI

The act of congress providing for the "reconstruction" of Alabama, provided for the calling of a convention to make a new constitution. The third section of the act reading:

"That such Convention shall not be held unless a majority of the registered voters shall have voted on the question of holding such convention." Thereupon the debate arose among our politicians as to whether it was best to write on ballots the words "against a convention" or merely to refrain from voting at all, as practically the entire body of the white men in this county were against calling a convention, against a new constitution, against the reconstruction measures and against all radical acts of a rabid Republican congress, bent upon humiliating and harassing the white people of the South.

A meeting of the "conservative" citizens of the county was held August 12, 1867, at Talladega, with Dr. Lafayette Taylor, chairman, Messrs. L. W. Johnson and T. S. Plowman, secretaries. A resolutions committee composed of J. F. Shanklin, J. J. Hightower, Jos. H. Johnson, Clay Stone, J. L. Stockdale, Reese Howell, Jas. Elliott, Isaac Stone, Thos. Riser, and W. H. Wyatt—approved the holding of a state convention of "conservatives" at Montgomery, September 4th, and reported resolution, the substance of which was a protest against "the present mismanagement and misrule of the Radical party, endangering the existence of the constitution and the Union, and detrimental to the peace, harmony, and prosperity of the American people, and will end in anarchy and ruin," and provided for the appointment of twenty delegates to the Montgomery convention of conservatives, viz: George G. Morris, John J. Hightower, Geo. W. Parsons, A. W. Plowman, M. J. Cliett, Fred Ledbetter, Andrew Cunningham, M. Bennett, James N. Blackman, Jas. Hogan, Joe J. Nix, Col. Thos. McElderry, Jos. Camp, Hon. Jas. Montgomery, Henry Sims, John C. Duncan, R. A. McMillan, Dr. J. L. Stockdale, Wesley Parsons, Jim McGregor and Jim Riley. William McGregor, Esq., addressed the meeting, also Chancellor Foster and Jim Bradley, colored, addressed the meeting in support of the resolutions.

The Reporter, edited by Cross and Cruikshank, was opposed to the "Conservative Movement." In its editorial of August 16th, it said: "We had not looked upon the Conservative Convention in a serious light, nor did we suppose that a sufficient number of the reflecting men of the

county would engage in it to render it at all formidable. We must confess, however, that there is great danger to be apprehended from a heated political contest, which can result in no possible good to any one, and which, it seems to us, must be fruitful of mischief."

The other local paper, the Watchtower, answers this editorial rather warmly, insisting that it is the desire of the Conservatives to devise some way of harmonizing the races, and to prevent the black race being arrayed in solid phalanx against the whites.

As a matter of fact the Montgomery convention achieved nothing—did nothing of worth, and should not have been held.

The Reporter of May 29, 1867, says: "Major Gen'l Pope has removed from office of sheriff of Talladega county, Mr. Abner Jones and appointed in his place Mr. F. M. Shouse. Mr. Jones was appointed sheriff of the county about two months ago by Gov. Patton, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. (N. P.) Plowman."

This article is a sample of the articles that appeared in almost every paper in the State. Removals were made without notice, and for no known cause. Any official in Alabama, from the Governor down to constable, was subject to be instantly ousted, removed, ejected from office, at the whim of a military officer. Naturally this state of affairs kindled resentment.

The line of argument used by the Reporter in opposing the formation of a Conservative party in Alabama was, "that no party should be formed lest the antagonism and bitter feelings of the people be still further aroused." "The organization of a party here, call it by what name you choose, can neither defeat or retard reconstruction upon the terms, in the manner, and by the parties indicated in the congressional program. Your opposition to a convention (to make a constitution) will not prevent its being held. Your denunciation of the parties who are to compose that convention will not hinder them from forming a State Constitution under which you and your children must live. Will it profit you to play upon war prejudice, inflame the passions of the people to such an extent as to deter good men from going to the convention."

September 1, 1867, General Pope issues a general order directing an election to be held in the State to elect delegates to a State Convention.

and to decide whether a Convention shall be held. The election was ordered to be held three days, beginning on the first of October, and continuing through October 2nd and October 3rd, and all who decided to vote had to come to the court house of the county and cast a ballot. In other words, all voters were compelled to vote at the court house and the election was scheduled to continue three days. It is apparent that both these unusual provisions were made in order to permit leaders to mass the negroes at the court house and vote them as a solid unit.

It is related that one night while a colored citizen was filling a bucket of water at the pump that used to stand at the crossing of Battle and Court Streets, he found himself suddenly surrounded by a cavalcade of silent ghostly figures on horseback, whose muffled approach had not been noted by him. The tallest figure in the group asked the negro for his bucket of water and drained its entire contents, remarking as he wiped a tremendous beard: "Ah I haven't had a drink since the battle of Shiloh!" And taking off his skull, he asked the darky to hold it while he fixed his backbone.

The Klu Klux contented itself with scaring the negroes, and in tacking up warnings at a criminal's door, for a year or more, but eventually the Klan had imitators who committed unwarranted excesses. On a visit to the home of a negro, named Caesar Patterson, near Talladega, one of the so-called Klan had his head cut open by a saber in the hand of Caesar Patterson, and this occurrence rather lessened the ardor of the work of the imitators. Laws were passed against the Klan, and grand juries worked hard to indict but nothing ever came of these efforts, and finally the Klan passed out of existence as the need for the police and patrol duty of the society passed.

During its continuance many charitable and benevolent actions were done by the Klu Klux Klan, and it was not at all the dreadful bug bear novelists and scribes have pictured. Among its members were many of the best and most conservative men in the county.

On March 24th, 1868, Talladega had its fourth disastrous fire in its business section on the public square. A young man in the employ of Moseley & Bro., druggists, while drawing some "Burning Fluid" with a candle in his hand set fire to the store, entailing a loss of \$75,000. Vandiver & Henderson, druggists, William McGregor, Charles Pelham and J. F. Shanklin, lawyers, Drs. Whitson and Hampden, dentists. McAlpine

& Toole, and Gist physicians, R. A. Moseley & Bros., druggists, Moseley Bros., dry goods, Misses Pitts, milliners, Fant & Abbott, tailors, M. H. Cruikshank and J. T. May, lawyers, and the Reporter Newspaper Office, were all burned out of their places of business.

A refreshing picture amid this political gloom is offered us by that staunch old Democratic paper, the "Watchtower," in its issue of May 6th, 1868, in which two columns of its editorial page is devoted to describing the "Sunday School Picnic." Evidently this was the first time that the militant Christians of Talladega had buried the hatchet and mixed with each other socially, as denominations—so that the editor begins his lengthy description with the statement that:

"We cannot hope to do justice in describing, on paper, the manifest joyousness of the occasion. The procession was formed on Main street, near the public square, by the marshals, J. F. Shanklin, Thos. Henderson and G. Knox Miller and proceeded down said street until out of town then took the road to a very beautiful woodland on Mr. W. R. Stone's premises, about three miles off. . . . after arriving the vast concourse was assembled around a splendid platform, erected in the most skillful manner by nature's artizans out of solid rock, and after the children and those engaged with them had sung "Sabbath Schools Must Have Their Concerts," Rev. Mr. Brandon, of the M. E. church, offered an impressive and appropriate prayer to the Throne of Grace.

The first speaker, John McAlpine, was introduced to the audience and he was followed by Aristides Thornton. At the conclusion of his speech the very touching and appropriate Sunday School hymn "Shall We Sing in Heaven?" was sung. The third speaker, Graves Renfroe, was introduced, and was followed by Alonzo Skaggs. The hymn "Angles in the Skies," was then sung with a very happy effect. The fifth speaker, Ollie Elston, followed the singing of the hymn, and next George Cruikshank. It is seen that there were six addresses, delivered by little boys, two from each Sunday school. Every one did well, in fact they manifested more of the ease of men than of the timidity of little boys. . . . We know we speak the sentiments of the several superintendents when we say that many thanks are due the accomplished musical committee, Misses Vandiver, Fletcher and Knox."

A local board of trustees of the Peabody Fund and school was elected in June of this year, consisting of Wm. H. Thornton, M. H. Cruik-

shank, Hon. John Henderson, Col. Ben Sawyer and Col. Taul Bradford. At this meeting it was reported that the sum of \$2,270 had been subscribed to this fund by our citizens. Two months later, in August, 1868, the "Talladega Watchtower" says of the Peabody school: "It is now settled that this school will soon go into operation. It will be seen, also, that Dr. Logan and Wallace Wilson have advertised to teach their schools, and it is known that they are successful teachers. It is clear therefore, that all who desire to educate their children can have the choice of good schools. The trustees of the Talladega Peabody Seminary held a meeting on the 25th inst. and elected the following corps of teachers: G. A. Woodward, principal, Julius Walden assistant, Miss M. P. Ruff, assistant, Miss Mollie Henderson, assistant, Mrs. W. G. Venable, assistant, Mrs. Moody, assistant, Miss Omberg, music."

The Baptist male high school building has been lost to the Baptist denomination, and the white people of the county, some time previous to this. Mr. Walker Reynolds recovered a judgment against the board of directors of the Baptist male school for \$3,578.22, and the building was sold under this judgment in 1867, being bought in at the sale by Jno. T. Heflin, and by him sold for eight thousand dollars to the American Missionary association December 3rd, 1867, for "use as a school for the education of the inhabitants of the state without distinction of color." This association in turn selling it to Maj. Gen. Howard, commissioner of the Freedmen's bureau. Since the time of this sale it has been used for the education of the negro.

In addition to this loss, several schools had failed to open, or had been closed, after opening, for various reasons, therefore it had been rather doubtful as to whether our children would have school facilities for their education, so that the Peabody school was very welcome. For some reason Mr. G. A. Woodward did not teach the Peabody long or declined the place, as in the following month Rev. A. D. McVoy, of Selma, takes charge.

The farmers organized for the first time on Monday, October 5th, 1868, under the name of a "Planters Club." A. Cunningham was called to the chair, F. A. McClellen and A. Joiner were requested to act as secretaries. The object of the club was, first, to regulate labor, and make it uniform and profitable. Second. To have an estimate of the probable yield of all products in this county taken, and made public by September 1st of each year. Third. To secure to farmers the highest prices for

- products. Fourth. To stop speculation in fertilizers, implements, etc.
- Fifth. To protect and promote farming interests generally.

A committee consisting of Gen. W. Lawler, Capt. A. W. Bowie, and Jos. Camp were nominated permanent officers of the club as follows: Pres. Andrew Cunningham, Vice Presidents, W. S. Chapman, W. A. Welch, M. H. Cruikshanks, Jos. Camp, T. J. Brewer; Treasurer, B. F. Sawyer, Secretary G. A. Joiner, Corresponding Secretary R. H. Isbell. The club adopted a constitution and by-laws, and requested Dr. W. A. Welch to address them at their next meeting.

The local papers noted that the old drug firm of Vandiver & Henderson were the first to rebuild after the disastrous fire, and that on September 30th, 1868, this firm was doing business in their splendid new store at the old stand. "We do not blame them if they strut a little," says the Watchtower, "because they have great reason to be proud of their situation."

Sunday, October 18, 1868, the new brick Presbyterian church was dedicated. The choir sang a voluntary "Cast thy burden on the Lord," an Anthem. Dr. Petrie, of Montgomery, then offered a short prayer, after which the congregation, led by the choir, sang the 137th Psalm. The reading was First Kings, 6th chapter, also 122 Psalm, and part of the 132nd Psalm. Next was prayer by Rev. Mr. McMurray. The first three verses of the 132nd Psalm was next sung. Dr. Petrie preached the dedication sermon from Luke, 21st chapter, 5th and 6th verse. After the dedicatory prayer by Dr. Petrie, the 568 hymn was sung. The Doxology following.

The presidential nominees were Horatio Seymour, of New York, for president, Frank Blair, of Missouri, for vice president. Judge John Henderson was the elector for this district, but there being some doubt about his ability to take the "Test Oath," the state central committee supplied his place with J. H. Davis, of Randolph. The Central Democratic Club of Talladega, for this campaign was R. H. Isbell, R. W. Huston, G. K. Miller and T. J. Cross and nine-tenths of the white men, and a large number of boys, in the corporate limits belonged to the "Seymour and Blair" club, and were enthusiastic rooters for the same.

The Banner Seymour and Blair club of all the country beats was at Hepzebah church, in what was then called "Cas' Beat." The call for

forming the club was signed by Seaborn Florence, chairman, L. G. W. Harris, secretary, and the names of many of the leaders in the precinct followed this; among them being H. Sims, C. R. Cross, E. T. Cambrell, John Cambrell, Robert Adams, H. C. Hannah, L. Merkle, W. F. Hicks, Reuben Patterson, J. L. Hays, M. M. Griffitt, M. T. Eley, James Headen, Benj. Freeze, Jefferson Riley, J. M. Mills, F. F. Autry, Adam Gunter, W. M. Fulmer, J. K. Jones, Jason Ledford, C. Adams.

It may be of interest to give the names of the election officers who served at the presidential election November 3rd, 1868:

Blue Eye, Beat 1. Silas Benton, A. S. Acker, Stephen D. Billue.

Eastaboga, Beat 2. H. B. Turner, Thos. J. Jones, Joseph Dill.

Buck Horn, Beat 3. Joseph Morris, Jeff. J. Sims, General Davis.

Kelley Springs, Beat 4. Josiah Kennedy, L. L. Shouse, John Holcomb.

Talladega, Beat 5, Box 2. R. M. Henderson, J. Martin Nolen, Green Nance, Jas. H. McCann, Nathan Y. Hunter.

Talladega, Beat 6, Box 2. R. M. Henderson, J. Martin, Nolen Green, T. McAfee.

Mardisville, Beat 6. David J. Waugh, Sam W. Smoot, Henry C. Burt.

Cass Beat, No. 7. Merrit T. Eley, James Jones, Joseph Allen.

Kymulga, Beat 8. M. Culpepper, Thos. Colman, William Cook.

Riser's Beat, No. 9. William Edwards, W. E. Riser, Elijah Stamps.

Fayetteville, Beat 10. W. B. Hammett, Wm. McPherson, P. W. Thompson.

Sylacauga, Beat 11. J. M. N. B. Nix, L. W. Webster, J. Lawler Darby.

Childersburg, Beat 12. Thomas Childers, George Butler, Jasper Bush.

This assignment of election officers is signed by George P. Plowman, judge of probate, F. M. Shouse, sheriff and J. H. Coker, clerk.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Our municipal officers as well as county officials were appointed in the dark days of reconstruction by aliens, and persons unfriendly to us. The Talladega Watchtower of January 13th, 1868, under the headline of "Council Proceedings," had this to say:

"Council proceedings:—On last Saturday the mayor and aldermen appointed by Governor Smith for the town of Talladega held a meeting and elected John Miller marshal, J. A. Savery tax assessor and collector, and Wash Braxdall (colored) street superintendent.

The Peabody school closed its first session in July, 1869, with the approbation of every one. The primary department was under the charge of Mrs. Venable and Mrs. Moody. Miss Emma Omberg, of Rome, conducted the musical department. The intermediate department was in charge of Julius W. Walden and Miss Mollie Henderson. Rev. A. D. McVoy and Miss Mollie Ruff were at the head of the classical department. The graduating class consisted of Misses Carrie Elston and Callie Swain, and Mr. Harry Boswell.

In speaking of the senior exhibition of the Classical Department the Watchtower has this to say under date of July 21st, 1869. "Friday night the senior exhibition of the classical department took place, consisting of mirth provoking dialogues, and plays selected, and original addresses. All done well and acquitted themselves right handsomely. Every effort was made by those connected with the school-to amuse and interest those present, and if there was any failure to do this it was not attributable to the school but to the public. Original addresses were delivered on the following subjects by the following young gentlemen:

First, "Spirit of Candor," by James Thornton.

"Aaron Burr," by George Cruikshank.

"Deadheads," by Melancthon McVoy.

"Hope," John J. Burt.

"Our Dead," John R. McAlpine.

"Vae Victis," Wellington Vandiver.

Valedictory address by Harry Boswell.

Thus closed the first session of the Talladega Peabody Seminary.

Whether the institution will exist again only in the memories of the people of the vicinity and the pupils remains for the early future to disclose. It has been a blessing to our town, and its abandonment on the part of our people will surely be felt."

For some reason the Peabody system was abandoned and the faculty changed, as in August of that year, a few weeks after the closing of the Peabody there appears the advertisement of the "Talladega Collegiate Institution" (male and female), with A. D. McVoy principal, J. H. Logan, associate principal, Miss Mary Clisby assistant female collegiate department, Miss Mollie Henderson, assistant intermediate department, Mrs. Mary Venable, assistant primary department, Miss Emma Omberg, principal music department. Which advertisement is signed by Dr. J. C. Knox, president of the board, M. H. Cruikshank, secretary.

The chronicles of the village of Talladega in the early years of the seventies do not differ from the average life of any other Southern community. A reasonable number of stores dotted the four sides of the public square of the court house town—stores containing everything needed for a people who were mainly agriculturalists, the clerks and storekeepers, the school teachers, and ministers, the lawyers and doctors constituting the mainstay of the social life of the town. Culture was a bit more apparent at Talladega because of the large number of schools located there. The square was unpaved and uneven, occasionally here and there in front of a store there was a broken, uneven brick pavement. There was no grade level, each store being entered by either stepping up or stepping down. In May, 1871, there was an effort to cut down the sidewalk on the north side of the square to something like an even grade. The two wooden stores on the northeast corner were raised several feet. N. J. Skaggs, on the northwest corner raised his store and built a brick story underneath. Moseley's drug store was lowered to a level with the sidewalk. Riley's shoe shop was lowered. Several wagon loads of earth were dumped into a pond on the east side of the square in an effort to fill it

up. A board of trade was organized on April 26th, 1871, with B. A. McMillan, president, P. G. Stringer and W. G. Hendricks vice presidents, R. H. Isbell treasurer, J. A. Storey, corresponding secretary, Joe Lehman, recording secretary, and in July of that year the people voted to take fifty thousand dollars of stock of the Savannah & Memphis railroad by a vote of 232 to 2.

H. H. Hamill retires as mayor on April 12th, 1871, and is succeeded by J. Morgan Smith, with Mr. M. J. Rhodes as marshall. Henry C. Bingham was postmaster appointed in March of that year. James M. Lanning and George C. Morris did the principal mercantile business at Sylacauga.

The aldermen of the city for that year were: 1st Ward. Frank A. McClellen, J. P. Wood. 2nd. Ward. R. M. Henderson, P. G. Stringer. Third. T. S. Plowman, Jno. T. Adams. 4th. James Gillespie and H. J. Skaggs.

J. H. Young conducted a photograph gallery and advertised in Irish rhyme. Sol Adler was also a persistent advertiser of a general stock of merchandise.

The Talladega Literary and Debating Society was one of the most prominent and lasting social institutions of the town, having a notice of meeting or some announcement in each number of the local papers for a number of years. This society indulged in a "Public Debate" on the second Friday night in May, 1871, at the Presbyterian chapel, the subject being "Was Napoleon I. A Blessing to the World?" Negative disputants wellington Vandiver, William McCorkle and Oscar M. Huey. Affirmative, G. A. Joiner, A. E. Skaggs and Geo. M. Cruikshanks. Decision for affirmative.

In May, 1871, the gas works was again started up by Mr. Dunlap, of Rome. The process of making gas from fat pine was discovered in 1857, when Col. Yeizer, of Rome, contracted with the patentee for the rights to make gas of fat pine in all the states between the Potomac and Rio Grande—finishing his plant in Talladega in 1861—when war interrupted the service. The gas house, or pit, was located on the south side of North street just west of the west side of the public square, and is the space over which the fire house of the fire department was built in 1901. In 1872 Andrew Knox and Butler Woodward bought the plant,

conducting it for several years. This statement shows that Talladega was one of the first villages in Alabama to use gas for the streets.

Two things that caused more discussion in 1871 than any other topics were, first, the Skaggs safe robbery, and, second, the Lovejoy horse race. Burglars entered the N. J. Skaggs store on the northwest corner of square and cut open the top of a Herring fire proof safe with a common hatchet, taking \$5,000 therefrom. Two gamblers named J. E. Woodyard and C. S. Morningstar, were afterwards arrested on the confession of a negro named Johnson, as the guilty parties, but on the trial the proof was not sufficient to convict. A year afterward Woodyard killed Morningstar in Mobile. The horse race was run in Moorfields, not far from the south side city school. The horses were "Sleepy Charlee," owned and backed by Freeman & Lovejoy, and "Black Tom," owned and backed by Medley & Richardson. One thousand dollars a side were the stakes, distance one-fourth of a mile. The race resulted in favor of Sleepy Charlie, who won by 11 feet, on July 4th, 1871. There were probably five thousand people present to see the race. Fifteen days later there occurred one of the last "Tournaments" held in Talladega. These "Tournaments" were spectacles modeled after the days of chivalry where a man on horseback with his horse at a dead run severed a wooden head from a post with a sword, and ran a lance through a ring suspended from a cross arm—the winner obtaining a prize and the privilege of crowning the "queen." The "knights" on this occasion were T. S. Plowman, as Knight of Snowdown, S. F. Morriss, as Knight "Red Cross," F. W. Bowden as "Lone Star," C. D. Boswell as "Don Roderick," G. H. Plowman as "Green Plume," W. M. McKenzie, as "Talladega," S. J. Bowie, as "Knight of the Lost Cause," W. T. Dye, as "Don Quixote," Wm. Orr, as "Ivanhoe," J. B. McMillan as "Knight Washington Artillery," M. Cunningham, as "Deloraine," J. W. Morriss, as "Bonnie Blue." The first prize was won by T. S. Plowman, who crowned Miss Maggie McClellen. Second prize was won by Jas. W. Morriss, who crowned Miss Lizzie Smith, of Alpine, as first maid of honor. Third prize was won by Geo. Hardin Plowman, who crowned Miss Lillie Lake, of Livingston. Mr. S. F. Morriss received the fourth prize as being the most graceful rider and the prize (a silver cup) was presented by Miss Lou McKenzie.

From March 1st, 1864, to August 9th, 1871, each one of the four sides of the public square had been destroyed by fire, so that on the last date only 14 houses were standing on the square that had been erected since 1864. Saturday morning about 3 o'clock, August 5th, 1871, an in-

cendiary fire was lighted on the landing steps of the "Sun" (Republican) newspaper at Bingham corner, which destroyed the west side of the square, including the Watchtower building. After this there was an attempt made at organizing a fire company, but there was no equipment nor apparatus for fighting fire until some time later. On March 13th, 1872, J. H. Johnson, foreman of the fire company, orders a meeting on business of importance of the "Highland City Fire Company."

J. Morgan Smith, mayor, purchased the old Phoenix hand engine of Selma, the same arriving on Saturday, May 28th, and the "boys" were proud of the fact that they had succeeded in squirting water 145 feet through 200 feet of hose. On that date forty-six names were on the roll of the Highland City Fire Company. The engine was formally presented to the city in a happy speech on the north side of the public square by Mayor J. Morgan Smith Friday evening, June 14th, 1872. The response to the speech being made by Capt. J. H. Johnson, foreman. Two immense cisterns were dug in the corners of the court house yard with which to supply the hand engine with water, and for years, in fact until the establishment of the city waterworks system, the hand engine was used with more or less success. This was the origin and beginning of the Talladega fire department. The first officers elected in October, 1872, were Jos. H. Johnson foreman, T. S. Plowman first assistant, G. K. Miller second assistant, G. A. Joiner secretary, Isadore Lehman treasurer, W. E. Schwine first engineer, Alex Willman second engineer.

Riding into political power by virtue of the military government in 1867 the "Radical" or Republican party in Alabama perpetuated their hold for four years practically without hope of being overthrown, as the negroes were a unit for that party, and the entire voting of the county was done at the county seat where the negroes could be massed and controlled by the white leaders.

The Democrats kept up an organization and made a struggle each time, but in a hopeless way, as all the election machinery and a black majority was in the hands of the opposition. The usual Democratic convention of the county met in 1872 on June 14th, and it will doubtless be refreshing to ascertain who were Democrats, in the time that tried men's souls. Geo. S. Walden presided, C. K. Miller and J. O. Mallory secretaries. Delegates Beat 1, Thos. J. Brewer, A. W. Bell, W. C. Bledsoe, R. M. Jones, J. M. Montgomery, Geo. W. Jones, Major Beavers and B. P. Allen. Beat 2, John M. Mills, Mont. Jackson, Alfred Turner,

Andrew Jackson, Joseph C. Cunningham, T. L. Best, John H. Lane and J. L. Elston.

Beat 3. C. M. Conly, W. D. Wright, J. D. Stewart, B. W. Mattison, J. L. Lindsay, J. J. Weatherly, R. T. Conly.

Beat 4. J. J. Terry, William Curry, A. W. McCain, J. L. Stockdale, Thomas W. Curry, T. L. Boswell and Jas. T. Dye.

Beat 5. Charles Carter, W. J. Cunningham, James T. Houston, Daniel H. Thweatt, William Taylor, James K. Elliott, W. R. Stone, J. E. Groce, R. R. Hundley, W. H. Burr, J. H. Joiner, R. M. Henderson, L. B. Ogletree, P. G. Stringer, J. H. L. Wood, Wm. Carter, John Collins, T. H. Wilson, W. H. Thornton, R. A. Moseley, Jr., A. W. Bowie, T. S. Plowman, Robert Spence, John Terry, Geo. S. Walden, G. K. Miller, J. Morgan Smith, R. W. Houston, Dr. J. H. Johnson, John T. Heflin, M. H. Cruikshank, W. B. McClellen.

Beat 6. B. P. Autrey, Levi W. Lawler, H. M. Burt, J. T. Jarrett, G. K. Ambrester, Jas. Headen, Wm. A. Welch, P. N. Duncan, J. M. Hancock, J. W. Scarborough, W. H. Hancock.

Beat 7. John Moxley, N. K. Houston, J. S. Hubbard.

Beat 8. E. R. Smith, John Sawyer.

Beat 9. D. B. Riser, J. W. Heacock, Geo. L. Coleman, R. Thompson, F. S. Mallory, T. L. Morris, J. O. Mallory and M. L. Wilson.

Beat 10. H. G. Darby, L. H. Crumpler, S. A. Cromer, W. S. Terrell, C. C. Douglass.

Beat 11. Amos Hitchcock, W. R. Phillips, Geo. A. Hill, W. M. Pledger, M. Burke, E. R. Parker, Wm. Perryman.

Beat 12. J. T. McMillan, C. C. Oliver, D. B. Oden, W. H. Kieth, J. W. Cosper, M. J. Cliett, W. C. Patterson, M. J. Cruise.

After organization with these delegates the convention proceeded to nominate candidates for the legislature—the candidates being Jno. W. Bishop, Thos. J. Brewer, Albert W. Plowman, B. W. Groce, M. H.

Cruikshank and Levi W. Lawler, the two latter named gentlemen declining to run. Messrs. Bishop and Groce were elected. After this the convention nominated Wellington Vandiver for county solicitor. Subsequently Dr. B. W. Groce declined on account of the illness of his wife, and his place was supplied by Taul Bradford. Andrew Cunningham was nominated for the state senate, from the district consisting of Clay and Talladega counties. The Republicans nominated Ashley C. Wood, white, and G. W. Braxdell, a colored barber for the legislature, and Thomas Hayden for county solicitor. The Republican ticket was elected, but not until after a lively canvass in which the Democrats made hopeful gains. A contest was filed for the legislative seats, and Braxdell was unseated in some underground way—rumor having it that he was paid one hundred dollars and an overcoat to step down and out. Horace Greeley and B. Gratz Brown were the presidential candidates. There were two polling places in Talladega, and a negro voter would vote at one box, and immediately slip around and cast his vote at the box on the other side of the court house. The Democrats stopped this by slyly inserting a fish hook in the sleeve of the voter at the first box, and when a voter with a fish hook in his sleeve appeared at box No. 2, he was immediately arrested. Federal soldiers were stationed at the ballot box in those days, but they did little more than look on, the officers and soldiers usually in the long run being in sympathy with the great mass of white people who were endeavoring to maintain white supremacy.

Base ball was first seen by the Talladega youth when the Yankee garrison was stationed at Talladega in 1865, several teams of the various companies occasionally crossing bats. Town ball, and cat still held sway among the school boys until in the early months of 1870 when a club was formed at the Peabody school. The Peabody school club, after various local games, finally became the Highland City club, under this name acquiring some reputation. The first game of this team played away from home was played at Oxford on April 27th, 1872, against the Oxford club, the score being 114 runs in favor of the Highland City club as against 14 runs of the Oxford club. The line up of the Highland City club on that occasion, and as kept intact for years was practically as follows: J. A. Woodward, lf; Jas. Blackburn, 3b; J. C. Knox, rf; Wellington Vandiver, p; Butler, c; T. S. Plowman, 1b; A. Bowman, ss; Knox Jabe, 2b; Seab Johnson, cf. In May, 1872, the Pastime club of Rome, with the celebrated Henry Grady playing short stop crossed bats at Talladega with the Highland City club on May 17th, score 31 to 44 in favor of the Highland City club. The batting order of the two clubs was as follows:

Bowman ss, Blackburn 1b, Woodward lf, Knox 2b, Thornton (Jas.) cf, Vandiver p, Johnson rf, Butler c, McLin 3b. Pastimes, Grady (W. S.) c, Battey p, Grady (H. W.) ss, Proctor 1b, Waters rf, Todd 3b, Ramey 2b, Gregory lf, Ross cf. After this game Henry Grady, writing in the Rome Commercial in the fine spirit of true sport ever characteristic of him, has this to say of the game:

Talladega, and her people. How nine little men marched up the hill, and then marched down again. There was a pretty good crowd of us and at about 3 o'clock at night we reached Talladega, a little town on the Selma road where the original inventors of base ball live. One or two citizens met us at the depot, and apologized for the base ball club not being there as they were practicing by moon light on their grounds for the next day's game. We strolled up to the 'H. I. Criswell House' where we found the immortal Criswell sleeping on his counter, his lovely form wrapped in the drapery of a Home Sewing Machine circular. He was waked, we bedded, and dreamt of the morrow. (This dreaming of the morrow was what ruined us.) The next morning we paraded the streets when Bayard whispered down the line, "Boys let us try and not look proud; it will hurt the feelings of this little village and even when we beat the game don't let us make a fuss about it just lets take the ball quietly and give three cheers for the defeated club (poor fellows) and go home.' But we couldn't help it, we felt so grand that we took on a stock of pride that lasted till the end of the eighth inning. At that juncture we ate eleven thousand 'humble pies.'

"The game opened lively, Rome ran ahead. 'We've got a soft thing boys, sung out our captain,' so we had, too soft to keep in this hot weather. It spoiled on our hands about the fourth inning and from that time until the end of the game we caught the loftiest Hallelujah that ever fell to the lot of nine poor mortals. In short (excuse these) they licked us. We are going to lick them as soon as we can. In my opinion this will be in about 20,000 years, but with patience we will get through this brief interval. At the close of the game an unpleasant impression prevailed through our club that we had caught the wrong sow by the ear, in fact several sows by several ears. To Messrs. Blackburn, Butler, Vandiver, Knox, Bowman, McLin, Johnson, Woodward and Thornton, our successful opponents, we would say that the Knights never wore laurels more gracefully than they and men were never whipped in an honest fight, and on an honest field, than were the late lamented Pastimes of Rome."

In the first years of the decade beginning with eighteen hundred and seventy the local newspapers show that the following business men kept advertisements displayed. Medical cards, Dr. J. C. Knox, upstairs on the left in the Iron Front building; Dr. Paul Gist, at Vandiver & Henderson's drug store; Dr. J. C. Blake, upstairs in the Iron Front building; Isbell & Sons, bankers and brokers; R. A. Moseley, Jr., & Bro., drug store, north side of the square; Vandiver & Henderson, north side of the square; E. B. Freeman & Co., in the Iron Front building; dentists, Drs. Whitson & Hampton, office over Isbell's store; Millinery, Mrs. Pritchett, over Isbell's store; merchants B. F. Sawyer, north side of square; Sol Adler, east side of square in Iron Front building, McElderry & Lewis, next door to Storey's corner; Isbell, Gillespie & Co., Isbell's corner; A. G. & J. A. Storey, at Storey's corner; Family Grocery Stores, Shelley & Hamill, on north side of square; W. H. Thornton & Son, on north side of square; N. J. Skaggs, west side of square; Nickles & Jones, on west side of square, Wood & Bro., on north side of square; Stamps & Joiner, on north side of square; Jewelers, C. S. Crane, corner Exchange Hotel; T. T. McAdams, in Watchtower building. Law Cards, M. D. Moore, Rockford, Ala.; Walden & Bowie, north side of square; Joseph A. Woodward; A. W. Plowman, downstairs in Watchtower building; McGregor & Smith Watchtower building; J. N. Haney; Bradford, Martin & Isbell, upstairs Iron Front building, east side; N. S. McAfee, in the court house; Thos. Hayden, in court house; G. K. Miller, upstairs in Watchtower building; Bishop & Winbourn, upstairs in Watchtower building; Jno. T. Adams, wagon and carriage maker, Main St.; T. A. Rhodes, blacksmith; W. H. Thornton, marble works; Wm. H. Coker, tinware and stoves; Cowan & Zellner, tinware and stoves; H. M. Weathers, carriage and wagon repairer. N. D. Criswell kept up a lot of unique advertising of Home Sewing machine, fly traps, furniture, and odds and ends of every description. Horace and Bennie, Horace Chambers and Ben Cogburn, kept the "Dew Drop Inn"—a saloon, and C. S. George & Co. advertised a billiard saloon and liquors for sale.

In January, 1873, J. Morgan Smith, mayor, resigned, the vacancy being filled, supposedly by the vote of the aldermen by Thos. S. Plowman. In March of that year there was a citizens meeting, or convention of city voters, two candidates for mayor, Thos. S. Plowman and G. K. Miller, the former receiving the nomination, and being assisted by a board of aldermen as follows: 1st ward, J. H. Johnson, J. P. Wood; 2nd ward, Jno. Adams, J. M. Thornton; 3rd ward, P. G. Stringer, Jno. B.

Huey; 4th ward, G. K. Miller, Alex Sternfeldt; treasurer, R. H. Isbell; marshal, W. E. Schwin. H. A. Wilson retiring.

The place of postmaster began to be more and more lucrative as the town grew larger. In 1869 Mrs. C. M. Hopson, a teacher at Talladega College, succeeded J. H. Lawson in the postoffice, Mr. J. M. Skaggs being her deputy. The next appointee was Mr. H. C. Bingham, who served us until March, 1873, when Mr. R. A. Moseley, Jr., was appointed.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

The "Good Templars," or I. O. G. T., as the initials read were quite active during 1873-4 and 5. The published list of officers of Talladega lodge, No. 114, reveals the names, May, 1873, of J. W. May, Miss Alice Donahoo, G. A. Joiner, Miss Jennie Sinon, Rev. C. D. Oliver, H. P. Watson, Miss Annie Fiquet, J. C. Williams, Miss M. J. Harris, Miss Nellie Pitts, W. E. Taylor, Mrs. Josie Moseley, Miss Marcie Chambers, I. B. Merriam, J. B. Fiquet; and in August the changes in Lodge officers were as follows: Miss S. M. Bowie, Miss Laura Pitts, Miss Annie Fiquet, Jno. M. Vandiver, Miss Fannie McLane. The Knights of Pithias were in existence under the name of "White Cloud Lodge No. 8." The officers installed on July 2nd, 1873, being N. J. Skaggs, C. C.; J. H. Allen, V. C.; C. Lowery, P.; R. A. Moseley, Jr., K. R. S.; Jacob Scharff, B.; J. J. Nix, F. S.; Jno. F. Warwick, M. A.; H. A. Wilson, I. S.; E. A. Cowen, O. S. The Masons had a large and flourishing lodge, the chief workers in the order being Dr. J. H. Johnson, Geo. S. Walden, Wm. H. Burr, Wm. H. Thornton, H. H. Hamill, J. D. Renfroe, Jas. H. Joiner, R. R. Asbury, William Baker, J. S. Watson, R. M. Henderson, E. A. Cowen, Jno. M. Houghton.

There was also a flourishing lodge of Good Templars at Munford, No. 120. Dr. Hugh Toland being the chief officer; the other officials were Miss Annie Camp, Rev. A. S. W. Stroud, Miss Bettie Stroud, Miss Sarah Cowsir, A. M. Weatherly, Miss Stella Pierce, Miss Gussie Stewart, B. S. Camp.

There was an Odd Fellow lodge organized at Alabama Furnace in November, 1874, with Robert McKibbon, N. G.; M. H. Hansard, V. G.; J. T. Jones, Sec.; and David Johnston, treasurer. The Talladega Odd Fellows dedicated their lodge hall April 26th, 1869, and a large membership existed at that time, and until now, but for some reason the

names of the officers elected at stated intervals was not published. This lodge, No. 30, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on April 26th, 1869. Mr. J. Morgan Smith delivering the oration on that occasion. Mr. J. M. Skaggs, N. J. Skaggs, J. M. Thornton, Joe Lehman, R. H. Isbell, J. Henry Lawson being leading members of the order.

The Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, flourished during 1873-4 and 1875. A county council of the Granges was organized at Talladega June 10th, 1874 by the Granges of Childersburg, Fayetteville, Weowoka, Plantersville, Eureka, Lincoln, Eastaboga and Chocolocco. J. E. Welch, of Wewoka, in the chair and J. K. Elliott, of Eureka, secretary.

The permanent officers of this "council" were: J. E. Welch, of Wewoka, president; A. D. Bell, of Wewoka, 1st. V. P.; J. W. Wright, of Chocolocco, 2nd. V. P.; J. K. Elliott, of Eureka, secretary; George Butler, of Childersburg, treasurer; J. M. Mills, of Plantersville, Gate Keeper.

The town of Talladega was advertised as a "summer resort,"—many families from south Alabama spending the hot months here. Other resorts were open, especially Talladega Springs. In regard to this latter resort, a letter published in the Reporter and Watchtower of July 23rd, 1873, will throw some light on Talladega Springs at that date.

"The trip can be made from Talladega to the Springs in about six hours, at a cost of \$3.90. Leave Talladega with the freight train at 7 o'clock in the morning and you can reach the Springs in time for a good dinner. A ride of fourteen miles on a hack will put your appetite on edge. (From Coosa station on Southern railroad.) The Springs are kept by Mr. J. B. Oden. Of those who have cottages here we can name Judge Leeper, and Rev. Bruce Harris of Shelby; Col. F. A. Butt, of Kuymulgee; Mrs. Lessor and Mr. Cliett, of Childersburg; Dr. Fitzpatrick's family is here. Dr. Bethea's family, of Bullock, Dr. Bethea, of Marengo, and Mr. Bethea of Montgomery, Mr. Ben Averitt and family of this county and Mr. Ware of Shelby, Capt. Becker and Maj. Watson, of Selma, A. W. Plowman, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Jones, of Talladega, Major Lanier, of Montgomery. Miss Stafford, of Tuscaloosa, is the reigning belle. Major Pace has a beautiful residence near the Springs. Mr. Hamilton, who lives near here has a fine orchard. Mr. Blewster also has fine fruits.

The Alabama State Teachers Association met at Talladega in the city hall August 5th, 1873. The reception speech was delivered by Jno.

W. Bishop, esq. An Anthem was sung, and after this Prof Lupton opened the association with an address.

The Talladega teachers who were delegates to this convention were: Rev. T. A. Cook, William Park, A. H. Todd, Jno. D. Mynatt, W. L. Lewis, James Barker, Geo. M. Cruikshank, John McAlpine, Dr. J. H. Johnson, R. R. Asberry, H. McDonald, Mrs. Mary C. Barker, Mrs. E. A. Johnson, Miss Lydia Borden, Miss Annie Montgomery. The local paper comments on the association thus:

The association presents quite an array of portly, fine looking men, who look as though they were capable of handling the birch as did the masters in the olden times. They have also an abundance of speaking talent, though not so noisy and contentious as a body of politicians. There is evidently much of cultivation and refinement diffused throughout the body."

Talladega began to talk about securing the Savannah & Memphis railroad in the early months of 1873. A survey or two was made from Goodwater to this city. In April the survey was discontinued, although the engineers had completed the survey to within nine miles of Talladega. The local papers in April, 1873, considered "The Georgia Western railroad as secured," although the Savannah & Western is still standing out against us. An amendment was made to the charter, by act of legislature, requiring the latter road to come to Talladega, but this provision was disregarded, the Talladega people claiming that Gen. Alexander of Atlanta, paid the negroes of the legislature to vote out this clause.

Talladega was asked to subscribe two hundred thousand dollars to the Savannah & Memphis, but she refused, and the road was surveyed and built to Childersburg. The Georgia Western or Georgia Pacific, as it is now called, was at this time headed by Major Campbell Wallace who was in favor of the line running to Talladega, but in May, 1873, Major Wallace resigned, the Woodstock Iron Company, a corporation which then owned the site of the present city of Anniston, subscribed \$125,000 on condition that the road should be built by the Woodstock Iron Furnace, and so Talladega lost both roads. It can be added in passing that neither the Woodstock Iron Company nor the City of Anniston ever paid a dollar of the subscription, as the courts held when the question was in litigation that the Woodstock Company was a corporation formed for the

manufacturing of iron, and that it was beyond the power of the corporation to subscribe to the stock of a railroad company.

In 1874 Hon. G. K. Miller was nominated for mayor by the citizens meeting with a board of aldermen composed of Joseph A. Woodward, Jno. W. Bishop, 1st ward; J. W. McMillan, R. Nickles, 2nd ward; Jas. McNalley, C. S. Jones, 3rd ward; H. heine, J. H. L. Wood, 4th ward. A committee in May, 1874, report the total indebtedness of the city as note for fire engine \$500, interest on same \$75, outstanding warrants \$627.04. Total indebtedness \$1,202.04.

Coosa street was opened by this administration in October of this year.

The nominees of the Democratic party for county officers in August, 1874, were: For the legislature, Dr. J. W. Heacock, G. K. Miller. Probate Judge, William H. Thornton; Circuit Clerk, George C. Groce; For Sheriff, Andrew Lawson; Tax Assessor, Thomas J. Brewer; Tax Collector, E. M. Grey; Treasurer, R. M. Henderson; Coroner, Abram Shealey; County Commissioners, T. R. Burns, R. A. McMillan, Calvin Conley, William Baker. The Republican ticket was elected, Mr. Ashley C. Wood and J. A. J. Sims being elected to the legislature, and Hon. Geo. P. Plowman being elected probate judge. The seat of the latter was contested by Hon. W. H. Thornton in the courts, but the supreme court decided in favor of Plowman.

While this county went Republican the remainder of the state rolled up a Democratic majority, elected Geo. S. Houston governor, and bringing about a brighter era for the state, restoring the Democrats again to power after nine years of misrule and recklessness.

In this election Mr. R. M. Henderson declined to run for treasurer, and his place was supplied on the Democratic ticket by Mr. Chas. S. Jones. George W. Chambers was the Republican candidate. Mr. Jas. H. Coker was elected circuit clerk on the Republican ticket. Hon. L. E. Parsons was a candidate for circuit judge, but was defeated by John Henderson, the Democratic nominee. John F. Warwick was elected sheriff.

November 21st, 1874, was the date of the terrific cyclone which swept with fatal destruction the northwestern section of the state. Up

to this time the cyclone had been comparatively unknown in this section of Alabama. The Watchtower of November 25th, 1874, speaks of it in this fashion:

We give space this week to the notice of the terrible cyclones of Sunday night. The one which passed over north Alabama, and visited Tuscumbia with such terrible affliction is unprecedented in the destruction of human life. Since the settlement of Alabama no such storm has been known. The one which passed over Montevallo about seven hours later was also a fearful tornado. It will be seen that after leaving Montevallo it passed the Shelby Springs, continuing its course eastward, crossing into Talladega county a few miles north of Fayetteville. It destroyed the gin house, and screw, and blacksmithshop of Mr. James Vessels. It passed across the lower portion of this county, crossing the mountain into Horn's valley, where the destruction was serious. It passed near Chandler Springs, where it struck Clay county, and went out a little north of Lineville."

On the last day of March 1875 it again became necessary for the city to elect a mayor and aldermen. Two tickets were in the field, one of them reading, for mayor G. K. Miller, Aldermen, 1st ward, J. H. Johnson and J. P. Wood; 2nd ward, J. T. Adams, W. J. Rhodes; 3rd ward, Dr. LaFayette Taylor, P. A. Stamps; 4th ward, Jos. Lehman, Jas. McMillan, Jr., and the other one containing the following names: For mayor P. G. Stringer, and the same names as on the Miller ticket for the first and second wards, but for the third ward there were the names of M. L. Beard, James A. Huey, and for the 4th ward, Joseph Lehman and Joseph A. Woodward. All these candidates were Democrats, and sought the nomination at the hands of that party. The citizens meeting, which had the matter of the nominations in hand, met on Friday night, March 26th, 1875, Col. Taul Bradford being in the chair, with Messrs. M. L. Beard and F. C. McAlpine secretaries. G. K. Miller was nominated for mayor, Messrs. Johnson and Wood, Adams and Rhodes were named as aldermen from the 1st and 2nd wards, M. L. Beard and Chas. S. Jones were nominated for the third ward and J. B. McMillan and H. Heine for the fourth ward.

The first "spelling bee" of the city or county occurred Friday, May 21st, 1875, when quite a large crowd of the most dignified citizens of the county met in the court house in order to exhibit how little they knew of the 'blue-back" speller. Mr. Anderson, pastor of the Methodist

church, opened the performance with a neat, short and original address. A. E. Skaggs and Geo. M. Cruikshank chose the spellers. Prof. A. H. Todd "dictated" the words to be spelled. Prof. Barker and Dr. Johnson were the referees. Twenty-one were chosen on each side. The first four fell before the word "Cyst." The editor of one of the papers missed "cucumber"—but it is not told how he did it. After an hour only two were left standing on each side, to wit: Miss Omberg and James Thornton on one side, and Miss Bradford and Miss Parsons on the other—Miss Omberg finally spelled down the whole company.

The people of Alabama began in 1875 to take steps to make a constitution to take the place of the one made for us by federal bayonets in 1868, and to that end each county selected delegates to a constitutional convention. Talladega county held its county meeting on June 7th, Gen. W. B. McClellan in the chair, Dr. J. W. Heacock and J. E. Hendricks secretaries. The candidates for the place of delegate to the constitutional convention were M. H. Cruikshank, Dr. William Taylor, Levi W. Lawler, and Jno. W. Bishop. Mr. M. H. Cruikshank received two-thirds of the votes of the convention on the first ballot and was declared the delegate from this county, and Hon. Jno. T. Heflin was afterward nominated at a joint meeting of Talladega and Clay counties, as delegate from the senatorial district.

Talladega county voted against the convention, however, and elected A. W. Plowman over Mr. Cruikshank. The vote being: Against the convention 1,886; for convention 1,555. For Plowman 1,880; for Cruikshank 1,548. The majority in the state for the convention was 15,624. There were seven Republican members of the constitutional convention from the senatorial districts, and only eight (8) from the various counties of Alabama.

But when it came to voting on the adoption of the constitution there was a change of 139 votes and this county announced in favor of the instrument as made by the convention by the following vote, for the constitution 1694, against the constitution 1,378.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

For years the people selected officials by conventions, but experience demonstrated that a clique, or a few men controlled and dominated these gatherings, so that this plan of choosing men for office was abandoned,

and the primary, or voting by each voter for the official was substituted in its stead, although this change did not take place until the closing years of the last century. Conventions were held for any and every sort of political purpose.

The county convention of April, 1876, was called merely for the purpose of selecting delegates to other conventions, and the body refused to nominate representatives to the legislature. The basis of representation in that county convention was one delegate for every twenty-five voters so that the convention was composed of seventy-seven delegates divided as follows: Blue Eye 6, Eastaboga 5, Buck Horn 7, Chinnabee 6, Talladega 15, Mardisville 3, Casts 4, Kuymulgee 7, Risers 5, Fayetteville 7, Childersburg 6, Sylacauga 6.

On June 15th, 1876, William Baker and Dr. William Taylor were nominated for the legislature. Hon. Geo. S. Walden being chairman of the convention, Messrs. J. B. McMillan and W. T. Webb, secretaries. Speeches were made before the convention by Hon. Jno. W. Bishop who gave "us a regular centennial oration brimful of brotherly love." Judge Heflin spoke. He "seemed to be in a happy frame of mind." He handled radicalism without gloves, and contrasted in a very striking manner the radical and white man's administration in Alabama. Dr. Sam Henderson "urged in an impressive manner the great importance of redeeming Talladega county." Dr. Martin G. Slaughter was the Democratic nominee for senator from this county and Clay, and Mr. P. G. Stringer was appointed county treasurer. Mr. Geo. W. Chambers, the republican incumbent, refused to give up the books and office, and Mr. Stringer carried the case into the courts and won.

The following merchants signed a statement agreeing to close their stores at six o'clock p.m., beginning June 12th, 1876, and continuing to August 31st, 1876: Lehman & Sternfeldt, J. P. Wood, McWilliams & Co., S. Adler, P. G. Stringer, W. H. Burr, Meyers & Ullman, R. Nickles, A. Meyers & Co., A. G. & J. A. Storey, W. L. Wadsworth, Fiquet & Merriam and Thos. B. Anderson.

A shocking murder that stirred the county on the evening of May 26, 1876, occurred at the supper table of Mr. Joseph Camp, of Munford when John Smith shot James M. Harcrow, of Clay county. The governor offered a reward of \$200 and Smith was arrested and tried for murder in Talladega, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life—eleven

of the jury being in favor of hanging, but Dr. Anglin, a member of the jury who afterward removed to Birmingham would not agree to hanging. Smith while in the penitentiary killed a guard and escaped.

Tilden and Hendricks were the presidential candidates in 1876—the Democrats having come into state power by the election of Houston for governor had enacted a registration law, changed the system of massing voters at the court house, and otherwise amended the election laws so as to place the machinery in their own hands, the result of which was that Talladega county gave a Democratic majority for the first time in many years, the difference being 575 in favor of the Democratic state and county ticket. The local papers got out all of their old advertising cuts of cannon, flags and roosters, while each column bristled with headlines of "Glory! Glory! Talladega Laughs! Talladega Smiles! Talladega Feels Good Generally! Democratic majority in Chinnabee Beat 229!" At the November election of the same year the Democratic majority was 716, with Chinnabee giving a majority of 240. Every beat in the county except the city of Talladega and Mardisville sending up Democratic majorities.

The Democratic majorities were as follows: Blue Eye 69, Eastaboga 151, Alabama Furnace 20, Chinnabee 240, Casts 34, Kuymulgee 66, Risers 85, Fayetteville 51, Sylacauga 126, Childersburg 12, Chandler Springs 18—Talladega Republican majority 87, Mardisville Republican majority 70.

The election officers who conducted the machinery of the voting at the beats where the large majorities were obtained were: Blue Eye, A. W. Bell, A. S. Acker, Geo. W. Jones, N. H. Dobbins; Eastaboga, E. C. Turner, Andrew Jackson, H. B. Turner, S. P. McClendon; Chinnabee, S. M. Jemison, James T. Dye, J. G. Chaudron, William F. Stockdale; Sylacauga, J. A. Powe, Wm. S. Terrill, Todd Rayfield, H. C. Darby. The total presidential vote of the county was Tilden 2,015, Hays 1,309.

To celebrate the redemption of the state and county from the rule of the carpet bagger Talladega gave a torch-light procession and grand jolification Friday night, August 11, 1876. An editorial from one of the leading local papers speaks of the affair in this language:

Bonfires, illuminations, torchlight processions, transparencies, music and speaking were the order of the evening. Every precinct was repre-

sented, and some of them by hundreds. The delegation from Chinnabee came in a procession, six wagons filled with men, several carriages and buggies and about one hundred on horseback, making quite a display. Matt Murphy, the leader of the Chinnabee "Mountain Boys" was dressed in Indian costume, and wearing the champions belt, which Chinnabee had won from Eastaboga on the late election.

A handsome banner prepared by the ladies was presented by Mr. Shep Groce to the Chinnabee delegation. Mr. M. S. Curry received the banner, and responded in a manly speech. Dr. J. H. Johnson, marshal of the occasion, formed the torchlight procession on the west side of the square, and with banners, bells, transparencies, trumpets and music made quite a display as they moved up Court street across Battle to Coffee, and up Coffee street to Second Alley, thence to North and down North to square. Ladies lined the balconies and filled the windows. Speeches were made in the following order: M. H. Cruikshank, G. K. Miller, Hon. Jno. T. Heflin, F. W. Bowden, Graves Renfroe, Dr. Wm. Taylor, Wm. Baker, Thos. Henderson, F. Dillon, R. J. Cunningham, John Ware, Esq., and others. Accompanying the Chinnabee delegation were 30 colored men who were bearing banners and who had voted the Democratic ticket.

Tradition lingers fondly over the countless incidents and accidents of this glorious night for Talladega, recalling with especial zest the untoward fate of one of those oratorical gentlemen who spoke in the list put down by the local paper as the "And others." A stand had been erected on the northeast side of the court house, the torches had flickered, flared, and many had become extinguished as the "small hours" began to arrive. Our Democratic speaker was filled with enthusiasm and corn whisky, and the light was too dim for him to read his manuscript, whereupon a bibulous, but still enthusiastic Democate volunteered to hold a candle for him. The local Demosthenes proceeded to howl from a written page about "ty-reeny and uppression, libbe-ty and the Lost Caws," at the top of his voice, while his drunken friend wobbled about with his lighted candle, frequently setting the orator's whiskers afire, and plastering his Prince Albert coat with tallow from cupalo to foundation stone, all without in the least stopping the flow of eloquence from the lips of one of our "favorite sons." It was a mad orgy for staid Talladega, which village, at that time trembled at its temerity in imbibing a glass of lemonade spiked with wine at a church supper.

The candidates for state offices at this election were as follows, the

Democrats being named first: Governor Geo. S. Houston, Noadiah Woodruff, Secretary of State Rufus K. Boyd, Amos Moody, Auditor Willis Brewer, Lewis Owen, Treasurer Daniel Crawford, W. B. Harris, Attorney General Jno. W. A. Samford, E. H. Grandin, Supt. of Education Leroy F. Box, H. J. Livingston, Senator 8th district, M. C. Slaughter, A. J. Street, Representatives William Taylor, William Baker, N. S. McAfee, Ashley C. Wood.

The editor did not exactly catch the spirit of Yule Tide on Christmas, 1896, in Talladega—probably he was getting old and nervous. In any event he was particularly grouchy when he penned this local item in his edition of that date, "An Interesting Tableau:" Young swells on the public square popping firecrackers, gentlemen shoe-mouth deep in cold mud holding on the frightened horses. Ladies walking home through the mud, not daring to risk their lives in their carriages—with the crackers under the horses.

The boys must have their fun (?) and people who don't want their horses ruined or their families killed had better keep out of town while the boys are on their spree."

The appointments of the North Alabama Conference in January, 1877, will probably recall some familiar names of the preachers, many of whom have laid down the cross and wear the crown. Huntsville Station Daniel Duncan, presiding elder, Talladega Station J. M. Boland, Talladega Circuit, Largon R. Bell, White Plains and Oxford, J. B. Stevenson, Centre, R. G. Reagon, Fayetteville, T. P. Roberts, Harpersville, C. L. Dobbs, Chandler Springs, John T. Wilkins, Birmingham District Anson West, P. E.; Birmingham Station, W. C. Hearn.

The origin of the Talladega Ladies Confederate Memorial Association is as follows. One evening a party of young men had returned from serenading, in April, 1867, and were conversing together in the back room of a store on the public square. Some one mentioned that a day in May had been set aside for a memorial day and a time for decorating graves by northern people, and this brought the conversation around to the neglected state of our cemetery, and the fact that there were a number of soldiers graves in the cemetery unmarked and without means of identification. Some one proposed that the "Glee Club" take the matter up and ascertain as many names as possible, and if money could be procured to have footboards to mark the graves. A hat was passed and a

small sum was obtained. It was informally agreed that the young men present should constitute a society for the purpose of marking the graves. There was another meeting a few nights after in Moseley's drug store, where J. F. Shanklin clerked, and Shanklin was placed at the head of the society, and a name was chosen—the name being the three initials "R. W. R."—meaning "Red, White and Red," the colors of the confederate flag. The society paid J. M. Houghton, a painter, to make and paint plain white footboards, and they cleaned up the graves and put the boards in position with the initials "R. W. R." at the foot of each grave of a Confederate soldier in the cemetery. In 1868 the society still existed, and some young ladies, Miss Celia Parsons, Miss Rosa Knox, Miss Pauline McAlpine were asked to assist the "R. W. R." with flowers and singing in the ceremony of cleaning and decorating the graves. The young men who started the movement were Tobe Shelley, Nash Truss, Bert Joiner, Jim Knox, Wellington Vandiver, T. S. Plowman, W. E. Storey, Jim Morriss, Robert Lewis, J. B. Woodward, J. B. McMillan, John Swan, John C. Duncan and George Parsons.

In April, 1869, (April 7th) the ladies of Tuscaloosa started a movement to build a monument to John Pelham, and the Watchtower, our local paper of that date, appealed to the ladies of Talladega to help in the movement. This was followed by an appeal to the women of the south, published in the Watchtower of April 14th, 1869, from Mrs. H. F. Bocock, president of the Lynchburg, Va., Memorial association, asking contributions for the proper care of the Confederate graves at Lynchburg, and appealing to southern ladies to organize memorial associations for this purpose. These two incidents suggested to Talladega's fair daughters the necessity of an association, and consequently the Watchtower of April 14th, 1869, publishes this statement: "The graves of the Confederate dead in the Talladega cemetery will be decorated with flowers on the 26th. We presume the committee having the ceremony in charge will announce the program in ample time."

After conference with the members who formerly constituted the "R. W. R." the young ladies of the city published a call in the Watchtower of April 21st, 1869, as follows: "The 26th of April." The citizens of Talladega are requested to assemble at the Methodist church on Monday, the 26th of April, at 4 p.m., from thence to proceed to the cemetery for the purpose of decorating the graves of "Our Dead Soldiers." The order of the procession and the ceremonies will be announced at the church. (Signed) The Young Ladies of Talladega.

The same paper on March 30th, 1870, says: "We learn that a Confederate Memorial Association was recently organized by some of the ladies of Talladega. One of the objects of the organization, we suppose, is to take care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers who are interred in the Talladega graveyard. This is eminently proper, and we chronicle the fact that the step has been taken with pleasure."

In the same issue appears a local notice reading as follows: "Memorial Day. We are happy to learn that the ladies of Talladega have formed a memorial association to provide for the decoration of the soldiers' graves. The following officers have been elected: Mrs. Morgan Smith, president; Miss Pauline McAlpine, vice president; Miss Annie Elston, secretary; Miss Rosa Knox, treasurer.

"The time for the decoration has been fixed for the 10th of May, and the following marshals and committee of arrangements have been appointed: Marshals, Capt. G. K. Miller, and T. S. Plowman; committee on arrangements, R. H. Isbell, Robt. S. Lewis, J. M. Thornton, Frank McAlpine, George W. Parsons, George A. Joiner, Jas. McMillan, Jr., and James W. Morris. On arrival at the graveyard an address will be delivered by Rev. A. D. McVoy, and a song composed by Prof. Pluker, of this city, to words written by Miss Ida Johnson, of Louisville, Ky."

The year previous was the first year that any ceremony beyond merely cleaning off the graves and placing footboards had been attempted, and in that year, April, 1869, nothing was done except the rendering of the song: "Let the Dead and the Beautiful Rest" by Misses Parsons, McAlpine, Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Parsons, Knox, Walden and Shelley, followed by an address by Rev. C. A. King, and then the people strewed the graves with flowers and wreathed them with garlands. In 1871 Mrs. J. Morgan Smith was still the president, the association met at the house of J. Morgan Smith and arranged the program—Prayer by Rev. Daniel Duncan, address by Hon. G. K. Miller, song "The Soldier's Grave." In 1872 the ladies determined to solicit contributions for the first time at the various entrances to the cemetery to aid in keeping clean the graves. This year "Deep Be Thy Sleep" was the song, the orator being Rev. C. D. Oliver. The following gentlemen conducted the ceremonies at the request of Mrs. President J. Morgan Smith and ladies: Dr. Joe H. Johnson, Chief marshal, Jas. B. McMillan, W. E. Storey, T. S. Plowman and Jos. W. Morris, assistants. In 1873 there was no address nor ceremonies of any kind except a short prayer by Rev. J. J. D. Renfroe—although a

large crowd was present. In 1874 Mrs. J. Morgan Smith, president, Miss Celia Parsons, treasurer, and Miss Rosa Knox, secretary, on behalf of the Ladies Memorial Association called on the citizens to join the procession, nominate Dr. J. H. Johnson as chief marshal, Messrs. T. S. Plowman, G. A. Joiner and Geo. W. Parsons as assistants, and give the order of the procession. There was no oration or formal address, but merely an anthem and a prayer by Rev. Mr. Anderson.

CHAPTER XXXV

Rather a sad disappointment came to our citizens to cloud the Christmas festivities of the year 1877. Old John Robinson's circus was advertised to show at Talladega on Christmas day—exhibiting the most “unparalleled world renowned aggregation of unrivaled attractions, the most stupenduous miraculous exhibition of arenic wonders ever aggregated upon two continents.” Everybody saved up small change to take in this gigantic display, but alas for human expectations, rain began to fall, and kept on falling, and then paused awhile and fell again, until the streams were impassible. The local paper in referring to the show says: “Contrary to general expectation the crowd was small—unusually small. The heavy rains may have had something to do with keeping the crowd away. The creeks were all swimming that day, several bridges being washed away, otherwise Talladega might have sustained its reputation as a show-going place.”

Notwithstanding this disappointment Talladega enjoyed several other social gatherings. A Christmas tree at the Episcopal church, a Fancy Fair by the girls of the Female Institute for the benefit of the Orphans' Home, and a “Pound Party” by the Baptist Sabbath school at the city hall and the mayor and aldermen had their annual supper at the city hall the week following.

On January 9th, 1878, Mr. Arthur Bingham broke ground for the foundry to be erected on the Spring lot. The Watchtower says: “It will occupy the identical spot where Jessee Duren, twenty-five years ago, stretched a tent to sell Indian goods, nad established the first store in Talladega.”

Notice is published on February 6th, 1878, in the Watchtower, of intention to apply to Governor Houston for the pardon of Phil Shelley, the blind negro man, sentenced to the penitentiary for hog stealing.

Another criminal case tragic in its romance, and on appeal, the foundation for a great change in the legal principles previously held by the courts as to insanity, was that of the killing of Eliza Truss by George Boswell.

Murder

Here is the account of it from the papers of that date: "Our town was the scene of a most shocking tragedy on Saturday last, the 2nd inst. (Feb. 2), when Eliza Truss, a colored girl between 19 and 20 years of age was married to a young colored man named Wesley Embry. Judge Thornton had just performed the ceremony in a most impressive manner in the probate office. The bride took a seat by the fire for a few minutes, while the groom was arranging the horse and buggy to carry his bride to their home. He returned in a minute and announced to his bride that he was ready and they walked out together. George Boswell, a bright mulatto, who had been in the room near the bride followed them out of the room and when crossing the court yard near where the bell tower stands, George remarked that he wished to speak to the bride. She halted and the groom stepped on to his horse and buggy. George, in an instant, threw his arm around the girl's neck and with an open knife in his right hand, stabbed the unsuspecting and defenseless woman nine times before assistance could reach her. The screams of the poor woman were heart rending. When released from the grasp of the slayer she walked to the sidewalk on the east side, and died in a few minutes. George Boswell, with the bloody knife in his hand, walked to the door of the probate office and remarked to Judge Thornton that he had done the deed and they could take him and hang him or do what they pleased with him, adding that when she died he did not wish to live any longer and only asked to be laid by her side." George Boswell was a widower with several children. Eliza Truss was an unusually intelligent and handsome light mulatto.

When the case came up for trial in September, 1878, Circuit Judge John Henderson finding that the prisoner was unable to employ counsel appointed George W. Parsons and F. W. Bowdon, attorneys, to defend him. D. T. Castleberry appeared as assistant counsel with the solicitor for the prosecution. Boswell was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to death. The sentence was appealed. Chief Justice Stone of the supreme court in passing on the defense of insanity made in this case overruled the English rule that the test of insanity was the capacity to know right from wrong, and added a qualification that insanity was a defense only when the facts which an insane person be-

lieved to be true, would be a legal defense if really true. Judge Brickell dissented from this opinion, but the rule was established in the decision of this case that when insanity is set up as a defense it must be established by a preponderance of evidence, and a reasonable doubt of the defendant's sanity raised by all the evidence does not authorize an acquittal. This rule was afterward followed by Justice Somerville in the notable insanity case of *Parsons vs. State of Alabama*, page 577. About the time of this decision George Boswell escaped from the Talladega jail, and although the officers made every effort to find him throughout the southwest, yet to this day George Boswell has never been captured.

The first real professional theatrical aggregation Talladega became acquainted with was the Thorne Comedy company, headed by J. H. Thorne and Bonnie Meyer, otherwise Mrs. Thorne. There was a band of eleven pieces with this company. Thorne himself was a firstclass comedian, doing "Down East" characters quite well. It was a traveling family show, where one half the troupe were related. "Fanchon, the Cricket," "Rip Van Winkle," "East Lynne," "Camille," "Kathleen Mavourneen" and other plays of that sort were in their repertoire. Such was the welcome given the Thorne troupe by the Talladega people that Thorne and his people spent the winter here and finally located as a citizen. Joseph Antonia, one of the members of the band could imitate a mocking bird, a stunt which the public required him to perform at each performance. Thorne was an obliging fellow ready to lend his band to any function. The ladies of the Baptist church, anxious to do something to finish the new church gave a supper in February, assisted by Thorne's band, the receipts of the affair being three hundred and ten dollars.

The following municipal ticket was elected without opposition in April, 1878: Mayor, Hon. G. K. Miller; aldermen, 1st ward, Joseph H. Johnson, Isaac B. Merriam, 2nd ward, Thos. S. Plowman, Jno. T. Adams, 3rd ward, C. W. Stringer, John C. Williams, 4th ward, Joseph Lehman, John E. Ware.

Among the first ordinances passed by this board was one forbidding the keeping open of barber shops on Sunday, another was a series of ordinances establishing a market house, and putting the marshal in charge of the same; another ordinance forbidding persons to tie a horse to any tree, post, fence or building in the city, or to ride any horse or

mule on any sidewalk of the city, unless permission shall first be granted by the chairman of the street committee.

The Baptist church on East street was completed by July 4th, 1878. The state Baptist convention meeting in the new building on July 17th—Hon. John Haralson, president, in the chair. Dr. I. T. Tichenor, president of the Alabama Agricultural college, preached the dedication sermon on July 14th, three days before the meeting of the convention. The weather was unusually warm, the local papers stating that the thermometer was 100 degrees in the shade.

Among the delegates present at the Baptist State Convention were Rev. J. H. Hendon, of Birmingham, Rev. W. H. Patterson, of Eufaula, Rev. J. P. Shaffer, of Randolph, Judge Williams, of Ashland, Clay county, Hon. J. G. Harris, of Livingston, Col. Eli Shorter, of Eufaula, Rev. J. C. Wright, of Oxford, and Maj. R. C. Keeble, of Selma.

In May Talladega decided that it would be well to have a county fair. M. L. Beard, a Tennessean, popularly called "French" Beard was the prime mover in the matter at the beginning. Beard prepared a list and procured signers at Henderson's drug store of all those willing to interest themselves in a county fair. The first meeting was held June 15th with Dr. William Taylor in the chair. The persons present subscribing for \$1160 of stock, and giving it the name of the East Alabama Fair Association. It was decided to hold the fair November 12th and to continue it for five days. Grounds were secured northeast of the city. The track was an oblong one constructed after the model furnished by the "Spirit of the Times." It was laid off by Gen. J. H. Forney, a trained West Point civil engineer. Jerry Collins graded the track. Dr. J. H. Johnson was president and Dr. William Taylor, general superintendent. The names of the superintendents of the several departments are as follows: Field crops, G. K. Miller; horses, mules and jacks, R. M. Henderson; domestic manufacture, plain sewing and fancy work, O. M. Reynolds; domestic economy, T. S. Plowman; manufacturers, J. T. Adams; cattle, sheep and swine, Peter Hunley; poultry, T. L. Isbell; orchard, M. H. Cruikshank; fine arts, W. H. Burr; agricultural utensils, Andrew Cunningham; machinery, A. Bingham; department N., experts, T. F. Elliott; minerals, Ben Heaslett; miscellaneous, B. P. Autley. A catalogue and premium list was issued, and a number of race horses entered. The fair was a great financial success, the gate receipts being in the neighborhood of \$2,000.

The display of stock and cattle was very good. The display of hogs was conceded to be the best of any fair in Alabama, being of the Berkshire and Essex breeds. The largest exhibit of farm industry was made by Mr. W. T. Webb, who entered his whole crop. In the races Bush's gray colt won several races. Nick's gray filly made the quickest half mile. "Sorghum" showed them that the race was not always to the swift and took the wind out of the younger animals on the long races. "Hotel Keeper" took in the quarter stretches. The Morriss premium brown Dick filly ran well. Gov. Parsons spoke during the fair. The John Pelham Guards under Capt. Caldwell came down from Jacksonville and drilled for the edification of the people. The old folks came in from the country, met old friends and had a good time.

Mr. J. E. Camp took first premium on corn. Largest yield to the acre. Capt. W. T. Webb won the prize for the best five acres in cotton. Mr. O. M. Reynolds had the best display of agricultural products from one farm. R. Newsom excelled in raising tobacco. Archibald Hendricks won a prize with "Trojan" as the best stallion. Watt Ogletree taking the honors for the best mare, and Berry Powell the best gelding. In the art department Mrs. B. Freeman, Miss Mamie Taul, Miss Bettie Stone, Mrs. H. E. Reynolds won prizes for paintings and drawings. Miss Nona Burr won a prize for the best drawing by a child. Mrs. T. S. Plowman won a special prize of \$5. offered by R. A. Moseley for the largest collection of pickles, preserves, etc., and fifteen other prizes for marmelade, pickles, etc. Miss Zadie Burr captured a prize for the best muscadine jelly. Mrs. E. Parsons won a prize for the best grape jelly. Miss Laura Orr took the premium for the best loaf bread, and Mrs. Jane Parsons exhibited the best marble cake. Miss Wynn received a special recognition, having produced three bales of cotton from three acres of land. Taking it all in all the first fair of Talladega, was an unbounded success, so that the people determined to hold it again the following year.

For some unexplained reason the small politicians of Talladega county have always esteemed it a distinguished honor and a boost on the political ladder to be selected as a delegate to the state convention, although in many other counties in the state it is necessary to chase a citizen with hounds, and after catching him to plead with him a week to gain his consent to pay his own way to the state capital and endure the fatigue and hot air of a lot of stall-fed politicians. In the county convention of this year there was a bigger struggle over the selection of delegates than

there was in the election of representatives. Franklin W. Bowden and Dr. J. W. Heacock were chosen as representatives.

The remainder of the time was spent in selecting delegates to represent the county at Montgomery. Taul Bradford, L. W. Lawler, T. S. Plowman, J. A. Curry, O. M. Reynolds, J. A. Huey, J. H. Johnson, Knox Miller, W. H. Burr and George McElderry were finally selected as the delegates, but a similar number of alternates were also named, towit: A. Jackson, P. G. Stringer, C. C. Douglass, R. T. Conley, H. J. Cliett, J. A. Powe, A. W. Duncan, Thos. H. Reynolds, J. J. Weatherly and A. Cunningham.

W. H. Burr was the presiding officer of this county convention. Messrs. John B. Knox and J. L. Wilkes being secretaries.

Phillip N. Duncan was nominated for the senate from this district, composed of Talladega and Clay. The state ticket was headed by Rufus W. Cobb of Shelby for governor, W. W. Screws for secretary of state, Isaac H. Vincent of Chambers for treasurer, Willis W. Brewer of Lowndes for auditor, Henry C. Tompkins of Bullock for attorney general, Leroy F. Box of St. Clair for superintendent of education. Mr. Abner Wyann ran as an independent candidate for the legislature in this county.

The veteran master of Terpsichore Mr. Allen V. Robinson, announces to the people of Talladega on July 3rd, 1878, that he has opened a dancing academy in this language: "Prof. A. V. Robinson & Son have secured the dining room of the Exchange hotel and will open the dancing academy next Friday afternoon, the fifth of July, at 4 o'clock for ladies, misses and Messrs. Evening class for gentlemen will commence tomorrow evening at 8:30 o'clock. A liberal share of patronage is earnestly requested."

Reading this advertisement will recall many pleasant memories and bring a smile to the lips of many grey-haired ladies and age-scarred men who in the halcyon days of Seventy-eight tripped the light fantastic toe, and whispered sweet nothings to ears that have long since been dulled with grave dust.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Before taking up the history of the County in the decade beginning with 1880, it is well to take a backward glance at the progress made

as a County since its birth in 1832. For 34 years Talladega retained its magnificent proportions—imperial in its boundaries—but in 1866 her garments were rent in twain, a beautiful and picturesque portion of her domain being cut off to make a part of Clay, Cleburne Counties, leaving Talladega with an area of 750 square miles.

The first census of the inhabitants of the county, taken in 1840, eight years after its organization into a County, gave 7663 whites and 4924 blacks. Ten years later the whites had increased to 11,617, while the negroes counted 7,007. In 1860 Talladega County had 14,637 white inhabitants, and 8,886 negroes. Ten years afterwards, in 1870, the white population of the County had fallen to 8,469, but the negroes had increased to 9,595. Thus by the fatalities of war, and the reduction of the size of the County Talladega lost six thousand, one hundred and sixty five inhabitants.

The cash value of farm lands in 1870—the acreage being 81,579 acres of improved lands and 122,924 acres of unimproved lands—was only \$940,662. In 1870 there were in the County 922 horses, 1786 mules, 5,333 meat cattle, 2,355 sheep and 6,947 hogs, the total value of all this live stock being only \$400,156. The farm production in 1870, using round numbers, were 70,300 bushels of wheat, 284,783 bushels of corn, 420,800 bushels of oats, 5,784 pounds of wool and 5,697 bales of cotton.

The state offices the citizens of Talladega County filled during these thirty-eight years from 1832 to 1870 were limited in number. One Governor, Hon. L. E. Parsons, from June to December 1865. Only one Judge of the Supreme Court is credited to Talladega during this time, to-wit: Abram Joseph Walker—although John White, credited to Lawrence County was a Judge of the Supreme Court when he moved to Talladega in 1832—and Wm. P. Chilton, Saml. F. Rice and Geo. W. Stone credited to Macon, Montgomery and Lowndes were each of them Talladega lawyers. Of the Circuit Judges we have as residents of this County, Eli Shortridge, 1836-1843; Geo. W. Stone, 1843-1849; John J. Woodward, 1849-1850; Jas. Benson Martin, 1860-1861; John Henderson, 1866-1868; C. Charles Pelham, 1868 to 1870; Attorney General Thos. D. Clarke 1843-1847. United States Senator, elected 1865 but not admitted, L. E. Parsons.

One chancellor, Hon. Alexander Bowie 1839-1845.

Out of a total of 61 representatives in congress during these years

Talladega furnished five, to-wit: Franklin W. Bowden 1845-51, Jabez L. M. Curry 1857-61, Joab Lawler 1835-38, Felix G. McConnell 1843-46, Alexander White 1851-53. Two Talladega citizens served in the Confederate congress, namely Marcus H. Cruikshank, and J. L. M. Curry. The county had only one secretary of state, Micah Taul in 1867-68. Hon. Arthur Bingham became state treasurer in 1868 by act of congress.

The members of the state legislatures are as follows: State senators, 1834-36 William Arnold, 1833 William B. McClellan, 1839-42 Felix G. McConnell, 1843 John W. Bishop, (Hillabee John), 1845 James G. L. Huey, 1847 John H. Townsend, 1849 Bradford, 1857 George Hill, 1861 B. W. Groce, 1865 James Montgomery, 1870 Andrew Cunningham.

The members of the legislature were Lewis C. Sims, Francis Mitchell, Wm. B. McClellan, Felix G. McConnell, William P. Chilton and William McPherson, Samuel F. Rice and George Hill, John W. Bishop (Hillabee John), A. R. Barclay, Thomas D. Clark and John Hill, F. W. Bowden, John Hill and Henry B. Turner, J. L. M. Curry, Allen Gibson and John J. Woodward, Walker Reynolds, B. W. Groce and Jacob H. King 1851, A. J. Liddell, Alvis Q. Nicks and Nathan G. Shelley, 1853 J. L. M. Curry, J. W. Bishop and N. G. Shelley, 1855 J. L. M. Curry, J. W. Bishop, D. H. Remson, 1857 Jas. B. Martin, John T. Bell and D. H. John T. Bell and Charles Carter, Renson, 1859 Lewis E. Parsons, 1861 Levi W. Lawler, Charles Carter and Geo. S. Walden, 1863 Levi W. Lawler and L. E. Parsons, 1865 Geo. P. Plowman, J. D. McCann and Jas. W. Hardie, 1870 Taul Bradford and Amos Hitchcock.

The days of reconstruction, which tried men's souls as much as the worry and hardships of war, passed and in 1876 the white voters of Alabama under the banner of Democracy voted upon and adopted a constitution to replace the one of 1868, and from thence on the turmoil and political strife of Alabama ceased, and people turned their attention to agriculture, business and building up the waste places.

Iron Furnaces began to be erected in 1870—population again came to us from other localities, and development in every line slowly assumed proportion. While the county had far fame as an agricultural region, yet not one-sixth of her lands were in cultivation, and magnificent timber belts awaited the axe of the lumberman.

At the August election for state officers and members of the legis-

lature in the year 1878 there was a great indifference on the part of the voters of this county.

There were 4700 registered voters on the lists, but only 1800 votes were cast—the Democratic ticket receiving 1289, the Republican nominees and Independent candidates only 578. Mr. Abner Wynn, the Independent candidate for the legislature, received 143 votes in Kymulga beat—no other candidate receiving more than 95 votes in that precinct—although Mr. Wynn's total vote in the county was only 591. Talladega precinct cast but 250 votes, Eastaboga 139 votes, Sylacauga 122, Fayetteville 110, Risers 134, Blue Eye 77, Salt Creek 9, Chinnabee 77.

This lassitude or disaffection cut down our representation in state conventions from 10 to 12 votes to but seven votes. At this day the only way to account for this indifference is to assume that Hon. Rufus W. Cobb, the candidate for governor was unpopular, or that the people did not like the convention plan of nominating candidates.

The yellow fever broke out in Memphis in September, 1878, spreading with alarming rapidity along the river and southward into some Alabama towns. People were much frightened, so that nearly all small towns quarantined against Memphis and infected points. The editor of the Reporter insists that Talladega should follow the example of Cullman and Columbus, Ga., and invite the sufferers here as a harbor during the epidemic, arguing that Talladega, at the southern depot has an elevation of 640 feet above sea level and therefore was immune from the fever. The editor also states that years ago when the fever was at the south of us one or two cases were brought here and died. That Capt. Shouse was brought here sick with the fever and recovered, and that in neither of these cases did the fever spread, and that it would be impossible for yellow fever to originate here. But notwithstanding these arguments no invitation was extended to yellow fever sufferers to come to Talladega. Over ten thousand people died from this dreadful visitation before frost came.

The sudden death of Albert W. Plowman, Esq., a leading member of the bar, on Thursday night, October 17, 1878, shocked the community. He was shot through the body by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of F. W. Bowden, Esq., in Mr. Bowden's office. He lived only about 30 minutes afterward. The members of the bar and officers of court attended the funeral in a body—the services being con-

ducted by the Rev. F. L. Ewing. Mr. Plowman was in his 40th year. He had served through the war and was a member of the constitutional convention of 1875. Genial, witty and warm hearted his loss was keenly felt by all who knew him.

It is a mooted question whether people of this day and time live longer than a generation since. Many claims to extraordinary age have been investigated by the census department and have proven unfounded, but there is no question but that there were people in Talladega county during the seventies who attained great age. An extract copied from the Reporter and Watchtower of April 16th, 1879, proves the truth of this assertion:

"The death of Mr. Alexander Lewis at the age of 99 years, which occurred at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. English, on Sunday, the 31st ult., brings up very naturally other cases of longevity which have occurred in our county. Isaac Runyon, Sr., who resided in the neighborhood of Alpine many years since, and afterwards on lands now owned by Esquire Henry Sims, in Casts beat, died at the age of 117. Samuel Gover, whose tomb is near the old entrance to our burying ground, died at the age of 110. An old woman named Sally Lundsford, who died in the upper portion of this county at the close of the war, was said to be 120 years old. Brittain Stamps died at 93, and led an active life almost to the day of his death. Quite a number of others have passed their four-score and ten, and a few, whose names we cannot recall, have reached their five score."

The closing exercises of the Synodical Female Institute on Friday, June 6th, 1879, consisted of prayer by Rev. F. L. Ewing, anthem by the school, composition, subject "Out of Sorts" by Miss Annie Broatstreet; Lauterbach waltz by Miss Theresa Baker; Peabody schottische by Miss Lou Groce; dialogue by Misses Autrey, Boyd and Bonham; Evening Breezes (instrumental), Miss Lutie Baker; Beautiful Moonlight (vocal) Miss Annie Renfroe; Fantastic waltz Miss K. Boyd; Essay "Will Woman Conquer in the Battle of Life," Miss Annie Renfroe; Norma (instrumental) Miss Zadie Burr; Recitation, "The Church Organ," Misses C. Smith and R. Miller; "Drifting with the Tide," (vocal) Miss Nellie Toole; "Grand March to the Andes" Miss Theresa Baker; "Consider the Lillies" (vocal) Miss Annie Renfroe. The medals were awarded by Rev. John Duncan—the recipients being Miss Theresa Baker for the greatest proficiency in music, and Miss Annie Autrey for proficiency in writing.

The music class presented their teacher, Miss Moore, with a silver cup as an appreciation of her services.

The gas works caught on fire and was totally consumed at two o'clock p.m. Saturday, June 21st, 1879. The residence of Mrs. Eliza Bentley Smith, with all her little savings were also consumed, but the citizens made up a purse for her. The manager of the gas works was in another part of the city laying pipe, at the time of the fire, and no one was left in charge of the works. The roof of the old Baptist church caught fire from the blaze but was extinguished. The citizens used blankets from the Exchange hotel in preventing the spread of the flames. The engine and hose was found to be valueless in fighting the flames as the hose was rotten and the old engine was out of repair. Talladega at this time wholly depended upon volunteer citizens in fighting fire, although her losses had been frequent and great.

After an interval of eleven years the Synod of Alabama again met at the Presbyterian church in Talladega on Wednesday, November 28th, 1879 but it was not so largely attended as the first time. Rev. D. D. Sanderson, D. D., presided as moderator. Rev. Dr. Nall was clerk, a position which he had filled for 34 years. Mr. Joseph Lapsley, of Selma, acted as temporary clerk, assisted by Rev. Mr. Handley, of Birmingham. Among the distinguished Presbyterian delegates present were Revs. McElwain and Hazen, of Richmond, Va., Drs. Burgett and Palmer of Mobile, Petrie of Montgomery, Stillman, of Tuscaloosa, Hooper of Selma, Sanderson of Eutaw, Raymond of Marion, Morse of Greenville, Boggs and McLean of Oxford, Foster of Opelika, Kirkpatrick of Wetumpka, Carter of Pensacola, Holderby of Tuskegee, Maxon of Auburn, and among the elders were Buford, of Eufaula, Webb of Eutaw, Hanson of Union Springs, Miller of Calhoun, Harrison of Mobile and Judge Leeper of Columbi-
ana.

Dr. Petrie of Montgomery, preached at the Presbyterian church Sunday at 11 o'clock, and Dr. Hooper of Selma, at night. At the Methodist church Dr. Nall preached at noon and Dr. Burgett at night. At the Baptist church Dr. Palmer of Mobile at 11 a.m. and Dr. Morse, of Greenville, at night. The several colored churches were filled by Dr. Stillman of Tuscaloosa, Mr. Raymond, of Opelika, and Mr. Kirkpatrick of Wetumpka.

Thursday, November 20th, the old Ehtill home one mile north of

the city, on a small knoll overlooking the lake, and east of the lake on the Jackson Trace road burned. There was much historic interest connected with the house. Mr. Estill was one of the first postmasters of Talladega, filling the place for many years. His widow, Mrs. L. C. Estill, occupied the house at the time it was burned. The building was erected in 1834 by William H. Campbell, a lawyer, who died two years afterward when the building was sold to John H. Townsend, his administrator, and was bought by Lewis E. Parsons, being the first land ever owned by Gov. Parsons in Alabama. In 1848 Mrs. B. P. Cain bought the place, and at her death Isaac Estill purchased it. Richard Hillman, who aided by a carpenter in putting up the house in 1834, was present when it caught on fire, and helped remove the furniture 45 years after he had worked on it. The first piano ever brought to Talladega was among the contents of this burned home. The piano was brought to Mardisville in 1833 by Mrs. Gen. J. T. Bradford, and its ivory keys had twinkled at many weddings, parties and gatherings of the young people of that generation.

The appointments of the Methodist preachers for Talladega district in 1879 were Anson West presiding elder of the district, Talladega C. C. Ellis, circuit L. F. Whitten, Munford circuit, J. T. Morriss, Oxford district F. T. J. Brandon, Alexandria circuit, John G. Walker, Fayetteville circuit, W. R. Kirk, Harpersville.

May 25th, 1881, Mr. John C. Williams took control as proprietor of the newspaper "Our Mountain Home," then owned by John E. Ware. G. K. Miller in a graceful salutatory assumes the editorial chair. The paper was an eight column folio and Democratic to the core. Under the management and editorship of R. A. Moseley, Jr., it had been changed from a Democratic to a Republican newspaper. This paper was established in 1867 by Moseley Bros., and B. H. Shanklin, and was afterwards sold to Edward Bailey, a brother-in-law of Moseley. Bailey conducted it for several years when the paper went back into the hands of Moseley. John E. Ware purchased it in 1876, and continued to own it and edit it until the sale to Williams. Under Williams management the Home became a popular and successful weekly newspaper with a large subscription list, and good advertising patronage.

In June of the year 1881 a petition was filed under a local option law asking for a vote on prohibition. Citizens of Silver Run, beat first, filed a petition signed by John Orr, Jeff J. Sims, J. L. Hendricks, Wm.

S. Forgy, W. L. Gannaway and J. H. McClerkin, asking for prohibition in that precinct. Afterward a petition asking a vote for the entire county was filed: The election came on August 22nd, and resulted in a defeat for prohibition, the majority against it being 941, out of a total vote of 3133 votes. Beat No. 2 being the only precinct carried by the prohibitionists.

A special tax of 20 cents on a hundred dollars was levied by the county commissioners at the August term for the purpose of providing a better court house. There was some agitation to remove the building from the public square, but it was finally decided to remodel the old structure built nearly half a century before.

The tax books of the county show that the number of acres of land assessed for taxes for the year 1880 was 394,681. The total value of lands in the county, outside of the towns, amounted to one million, five hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars. The total value of town real estate was four hundred and four thousand, three hundred and thirty-five dollars. The total taxes assessed for all purposes aggregated forty-one thousand, six hundred and thirty-nine dollars. The average value per acre of lands in Talladega county was entered as \$3.88¼. The entire county contained an area of four hundred and seventy thousand acres but 68,000 acres of this area belonged to the United States and was not subject to taxation.

CHAPTER XXXVII

The local paper, *Our Mountain Home*, of September 21st, 1881, is dressed in deep mourning in honor of President James A. Garfield, who was murdered on the 19th of this month. The same issue contains a tribute to the memory of James Harvey Joiner, who died on September 4th. A mass meeting of the people of Talladega was called by Hon. G. K. Miller, mayor, and proper resolutions were adopted over the death of Garfield—N. S. McAfee, L. E. Parsons and George S. Walden, composing the committee on resolutions.

In an extra edition issued February 28th, 1890, the *Home* announces that a "terrific cyclone visited the northwest outskirts of the city," the track of the storm being ten miles south, and parallel with that of twenty-two years before. Everything in its path was swept clean. Lawson's house, Carpenter's house, the Wallis house, the home of Austin

Rivers, Jim Cruikshank's barn and stable, residence of Warner Elston, house of George Hunt and the home of Joe Elston, together with many small structures, were demolished. The storm came from the southwest at one o'clock in the morning, the roaring sounding like a heavily loaded train. More than thirty-five people were injured, but no one was killed. A proclamation was issued by Mayor W. H. Skaggs calling a meeting for the relief of the storm sufferers.

The roller skating craze struck Talladega in 1882. Max Altman announced on May 3rd that "Talladega is on wheels" at the city hall—the admission being ten cents, and wooden roller skates will be supplied for 25 cents per pair each evening.

At the county convention of the Democrats May 27, 1882, the candidates for representative were John N. Willis, William Baker, James A. Matson, Cecil Browne, and James A. Curry. Eighty delegates being present, 54 votes were necessary to a choice. On the fourth ballot, Mr. Cecil Browne received 56 and $\frac{3}{4}$ votes and was declared one of the nominees. The name of George T. McElderry was then placed in nomination, along with J. N. Willis, William Baker and James Matson and several ineffectual ballots were taken. The name of W. B. Groce was also placed in nomination.

The balloting continued without result until the thirty-ninth ballot when the names of all the candidates were withdrawn and O. M. Reynolds received 78 votes and was declared the nominee. At a later date Merit Street, Esq., was nominated for the senate for the Eighth district, composed of Talladega and Clay counties.

William A. Birckhead, of Clay, announced himself as an independent Greenback candidate for senator and the friends of Ashley C. Wood and John A. Bingham announced these gentlemen as candidates for representatives. Reynolds received 1819 votes, Browne 1707, A. C. Wood 1599, Bingham 1697 (sic. 1679?). Reynolds' majority over Bingham was 140, Browne's majority over Bingham 28.

The faculty of the Synodical Institute during 1882 consisted of Mrs. M. G. Craig, principal; Mrs. L. K. Pate, R. N. Kittrell, collegiate and academic departments; primary department, Miss Kate Stark; organ and piano, Miss Annie Cruikshank; Superintendent of practice, Miss Annie Renfroe; vocal music, Miss Ada Beck; art department, Miss Zedie Burr; calisthenics, Miss Poca Howell.

The Talladega Real Estate & Loan association was organized in March, 1883, after having been especially chartered by the legislature. The following were the first officers elected: George M. Cruikshank, president; William H. Skaggs, secretary and general manager; board of directors, Hugh L. McElderry, George M. Cruikshank, John B. Knox, Fred E. Wilson, and William H. Skaggs.

In May there was a meeting of the citizens in the interest of the Anniston and Atlantic railroad. Mr. F. W. Bowden, as attorney for the railroad, said he was authorized to assure the citizens that the road would be built by Talladega if the citizens would subscribe thirty thousand dollars to help build the road. In a few hours, \$24,000 was pledged and the remaining sum was added within a few days. During this year, and the year previous, books of subscription had been opened for the Talladega and Coosa Valley road but the citizens were backward about subscribing and the idea of obtaining subscriptions was virtually abandoned.

The state teachers' association met at Talladega on July 11th, 1883, in the chapel of the Deaf and Dumb institute and was called to order by State Superintendent of Education H. C. Armstrong. A great body of delegates attended. Prof. J. W. DuBose of Gadsden, Prof. C. A. Grote of Greensboro, Dr. H. D. Moore of Prattville, Miss B. F. Griffin of Montgomery, Prof. S. C. Caldwell of Rome, Prof. N. J. Borden of Jacksonville, Prof. Smith of Auburn, Mrs. M. K. Craig, Prof. J. S. Graves of Talladega and others made addresses the first day.

Rev. F. L. Ewing, the pastor of the Presbyterian church for thirteen years, made overtures to the Presbytery for a dissolution of the pastoral relation in September, 1884, and the request was granted. Rev. James McLean, of Oxford, delivered the sermon and declared the pulpit vacant.

In October, 1884, City Marshal P. F. Smith resigned to enter upon the duties of deputy sheriff under Sheriff Powell. The city council filled the vacancy by election from the police force of P. S. Williams, who had served on the police force for three years previous to this date. The chief's salary—called marshal at this date—was but \$500 and he had one assistant and two night policemen. During this year the city council voted \$250 to newspapers for industrial write ups of the city, one hundred dollars for a free ferry on the Coosa river at Collins, one hundred and fifty dollars for opening up the road from Taylor's mill and \$78 for a barbecue on September 16th, given for the purpose of booming the

city. The so-called boom in land values was just beginning to arise. People began to organize real estate associations and to speculate in town lots. Everybody suddenly discovered a fortune in the price of town lots and no one priced land by the acre, but offered it by the front foot.

The election of Steven Grover Cleveland as president of the United States was duly celebrated in Talladega on Thursday night, November 13th, 1884, by a grand rally, fireworks, a torchlight parade and oratory. Mr. R. W. Henderson was chief marshal. A few nights after this General Wade Hampton, United States Senator from South Carolina, visited Col. Virgil Murphy, and made a speech to a large crowd of ladies and gentlemen from the veranda of the Lyman home on North street.

The North Alabama Conference of the Methodist church, south, convened at Talladega on November 19th, 1884, Bishop Keener presiding. Some of the appointments made by that conference were: J. T. Morris, presiding elder of the Talladega district; Talladega, W. C. Hearn; Oxford, W. E. Mabry; Anniston, F. T. J. Brandon; Huntsville district, Anson West; Huntsville, John A. Thompson; Gadsden district, S. M. Hosmer; Gadsden, J. W. Newman; Florence, W. T. Andrews; Tuscaloosa, Alonzo Monk; Birmingham, Hardie Brown; LaFayette, W. R. Kirk.

As an illustration of the tax on the hospitality of the people the conference was with its large membership and many visitors it can be stated that during its session 22 Methodist ministers took meals at the home of Doctor John H. Vandiver, a leading Methodist.

The Advance, a weekly seven column folio, was started March 2nd, 1886, by R. E. Skaggs and Sydney J. Bowie. It was a bright, newsy newspaper edited with much originality and it soon acquired a large list of subscribers, but owing to the ill health of Mr. Skaggs and the law practice of Mr. Bowie demanding the greater portion of his time, it did not flourish but a few years.

The first action tending to establish a public school or city school was at a meeting in the rear room of the Bank of Talladega on Thursday, April 8th, 1886. Mr. William Skaggs, who was then mayor, and also president of the Bank of Talladega, organized a "Chamber of Commerce" on that occasion, and stated to the meeting that the city council thought the city was financially able to establish a city school, and Mr. Skaggs

proceeded to make a speech advocating its establishment, and asking the "Chamber of Commerce" to vote favorably on the question. Mr. John B. Knox opposed present action. He thought the matter should be deferred until we could have more legislation on the matter. Mr. Skaggs offered a resolution that the Chamber of Commerce considered it of the utmost importance that the city of Talladega establish city schools by the first of September, 1886, which motion prevailed, and a committee of five was appointed to wait on the city council on the subject. The corner stone of the present city school building on the north side of the city was laid on Wednesday morning, November 3rd, 1886, by the Masonic lodge of Talladega, Grand Master Harris superintending the ceremonies. Deputy Grand Master J. H. Johnson poured on the corn, Grand Senior Warden J. H. Joiner used the level, Junior Warden T. S. Plowman plumbed the stone, and Judge Reuben M. Page, of Abingdon, Va., poured on the oil. Prof. Phillips, of Birmingham, delivered an address. Prof. Brewer made a short talk. Rain interfered with the ceremonies and the remaining speeches were made in the city hall, where a gold headed cane was presented to Prof. George E. Brewer, who had been principal of the school a short while previous to this. The building in which the school had previously been taught was the J. H. L. Wood residence on the corner of East and Garvin streets, just north of the Southern railroad depot.

Berhard Schmidt erected a cotton seed oil mill at Conchardee, six miles north of Talladega during this year, and W. E. Yancey built in the city of Talladega, at the head of Battle street, a cotton seed oil mill at a cost of ten thousand dollars, but neither one of these enterprises proved a success on account of the fact that the cotton seed oil trust antagonized them and ruined the business.

In the issue of *Our Mountain Home* of February 6th, 1884, G. K. Miller writes a valedictory as editor of that paper, having been appointed probate judge to succeed Wm. H. Thornton, who resigned on account of ill health. Mr. J. W. Vandiver was appointed Register in Chancery to succeed Judge Miller. The candidates for county offices at this time were as follows: for tax assessor W. Randolph Bell, William T. Thornton, Marcus M. Duncan and J. W. Woodward, Jr. For tax collector Thos. J. Brewer; for sheriff Arthur T. Wood, B. P. Powell and Brooks Mitchell; treasurer, P. G. Stringer. Andrew Jackson was also a candidate for re-election as tax collector. Later, J. A. Edwards, then the sheriff of the county, announced as a candidate for tax collector. J. M. Solley of-

ferred for sheriff and J. L. Elston and J. E. McClung as additional candidates for tax collector.

The county convention met on Tuesday, May 20th, 1884. Mr. J. W. Vandiver was made temporary chairman; Col. J. K. Elliott, permanent chairman; Dr. George A. Hill and J. A. Curry were nominated for the legislature. M. M. Duncan was nominated for tax assessor over J. L. Elston and J. A. Woodward on the fifty-fourth ballot. B. P. Powell was named for sheriff over Arthur T. Wood, W. T. Dye, J. M. Solley, Jos. Keith and A. B. Mitchell on the 14th ballot.

P. G. Stringer was nominated for treasurer and John C. Williams for coroner without opposition. The struggle for tax collector was a strenuous one. The candidates were J. A. Edwards, Andrew Jackson, A. H. Hendricks, Thos. J. Brewer, J. C. Cruise and Abraham Shealey. The convention remained in session all night and balloted one hundred and forty-three times without making a choice. Eventually the name of J. E. Camp was proposed as a compromise and he received the nomination. The convention selected as the Central Executive Committee J. W. Vandiver, chairman, G. A. Joiner, J. A. Savery. These nominees were elected at the August election, as there was no organized opposition to the ticket, although Henry C. Bingham ran as a Republican for sheriff. J. W. Street offered on the same side for tax collector, Jas. H. Hogan for assessor, J. F. Warwick for treasurer and Frank Coker for coroner.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

On the resignation of Mayor G. K. Miller in February, 1884, the city council elected Hon. John W. Bishop as mayor who served out the term. At the following election Mr. William H. Skaggs was elected mayor over John W. Bishop, defeating him in the convention by 33 votes. Mr. Skaggs had remarkable industry, and was a progressive public official. The water works, the new sewer system and the public schools were instituted during his administration. He was the idol of the young men who elected him repeatedly to the mayoralty.

Geo. P. Anderson, and associates, began putting in a system of water works at an estimated cost of sixty thousand dollars for the city, and gas works in connection therewith, the latter being figured to cost fifteen thousand dollars, in May, 1886. At this date a statement of the

finances of the city showed a net surplus over expenditures of thirteen hundred dollars.

The Democratic nominees for the offices for the year 1886 were Circuit Judge L. F. Box, Chancellor Samuel K. McSpadden, probate judge G. K. Miller, circuit clerk James A. Huey, state senator Franklin W. Bowden, representatives James A. Curry and George A. Hill. All of these officials were duly elected.

In May the ladies of the Memorial Association announced their intention to erect a Confederate monument, and the following named citizens were asked to solicit funds and attend to its erection: W. H. Skaggs, chairman, F. W. Bowden, W. H. Burr, Jno. C. Williams, Jno. B. Knox, Dr. J. H. Johnson, G. K. Miller, W. K. McConnell, R. H. Isbell, S. D. Kyser, S. P. Burns, T. S. Plowman, J. Morgan Smith, Jno. W. Bishop, J. F. Slaughter, J. B. McMillan.

On September 9th, 1886, the stores were closed, the public schools dismissed, all public works of the city stopped on account of the funeral of Frank W. Bowden. The death of no man previous to this had caused such universal sorrow. Hon. Cecil Browne was nominated and elected to the state senate to fill the vacancy caused by his death.

Chambers Opera House, on the corner of Battle and Court streets was completed by February 15th, 1888. George W. Chambers being the owner. Mr. Walpole, an Englishman, was the architect. Mr. W. S. Johns superintended the placing of the scenery. Mr. E. O. Stewart, of Cincinnati did the decorating.

The drop curtain to this opera house was by Flores, representing a portion of the Bay of Naples. There were 52 pieces of scenery belonging to the stage. It was supposed to seat eleven hundred people. When the new Elks opera house was built this play house was abandoned, being eventually used as a furniture store. Miss Rose Osborne in the society drama in three acts entitled "Forget Me Not" opened the opera house with the first theatrical attraction within its walls.

During the previous year the Anniston & Atlantic road had been built from Talladega to Sylacauga. Mr. Henry Woodward of Talladega, being one of the passenger conductors. The Talladega & Coosa Valley

now the Birmingham and Atlantic, was also finished to Pell City by the Rogers brothers, saw mill operators living at Renfroe.

Justus H. Rathbone, of Virginia, the founder of the order of Knights of Pythias lectured to Highland City lodge No. 45, K. of P., in Talladega on April 12th, 1888. The Knights of Pythias lodge had a membership of about 75 at this time, and was a vigorous and growing lodge. Wellington Vandiver was three times Chancellor Commander of the lodge and Jno. H. Donahoo and Col. A. M. Garber, who afterward were both the highest officers in the state in this order, were active members of the lodge. The Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows used the same hall over Henderson's drug store.

The county Democratic ticket nominated in 1888 consisted of Representatives Geo. T. McElderry and W. T. Webb, sheriff Arthur T. Wood, tax assessor Marcus M. Duncan, tax Collector J. E. Camp, county treasurer C. W. Stringer, coroner Jno. H. Donahoo. A nomination was equivalent to an election. The county commissioners were J. M. Montgomery, H. M. Burton, D. H. Thweatt and K. J. Thomas.

In May, 1888, Dr. Geo. A. Lofton, who had been pastor of the Baptist church in the town of Talladega for some years previous, preached his farewell sermon, taking for his text Paul's closing words to the Corinthians. All the other churches closed their doors to be present. Dr. Lofton had been called to a Nashville church. On June 2nd following this Dr. J. J. D. Renfroe, one of the pioneer ministers of this church died at Woodlawn and was interred at Talladega. Rev. Marshal D. Early, of Arkadelphia, Ark., was called to the Baptist church of Talladega to succeed Dr. Lofton. The Baptist state convention again met with the Talladega church in July of this year. Three hundred delegates attending. On Sunday Revs. W. L. Loyd and D. I. Purser preached at the Baptist church, Revs. D. W. Gwin and J. J. Taylor at the Methodist, Rev. M. B. Whorton and W. H. Whittsitt at the Presbyterian.

Frequent notices begin to appear in the newspapers of this year announcing meetings of the Farmers Alliance. By the middle of the year Talladega county had thirty alliances with twenty-five hundred members. This was a secret organization with a ritual, grip, signs and passwords, originally organized to protect the interests of the farmer. Persons eligible to membership were farmers, mechanics, ministers, county school teachers and physicians. The officers during 1886 were, President K. J.

Thomas, vice president J. A. Wright, secretary Clenton Wood, treasurer, F. M. Billingsley, county lecturer, Dr. B. W. Groce, assistant lecturer J. M. Lowry, executive committee H. M. Burt, Geo. A. Hill, G. T. McElderry. Eventually the Alliance was robbed of its strength by lack of cohesion and loss of enthusiasm among the farmers and the efforts of small politicians to use the Alliance for their own advancement.

Through the efforts of George W. Chambers, who had married in England, investments were made in iron ore lands in Talladega county and an iron furnace projected. A fund of four hundred thousand dollars was collected and sixty acres of land was secured in the suburbs of Talladega where it was proposed to erect two furnaces with which to make iron, and from this product to manufacture castings. Nearly all the money subscribed was by English people. Mr. Lancaster came over from England to superintend the building of the plant and Mr. George Dunglison moved here, acting as secretary and treasurer of the company. About one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was spent in the erection of the first furnace which went into blast in 1889.

A cotton factory scheme was inaugurated in December, 1888, the Reporter newspaper of December 5 says that the company will be incorporated under the name of the Talladega Cotton Manufacturing Company, and has been gotten up and pushed to its present status by Mr. George W. Chambers. The amount of stock to be subscribed is \$150,000 in fifteen hundred shares of \$100 each. Mr. Chambers has worked earnestly and zealously to get the factory on foot and to his energy the city is indebted for its present status as a manufacturing city.

Stoneington, a popular suburb of Talladega, began to take form and fill up with buildings in the latter part of the year 1888. The year previous Mr. J. Ed. Stone bought an old field, commonly known as the Jenkins old field and divided it up into residence building lots, offering the lots at an attractive price. On December 5th, 1888 there were three new residences in course of construction in this suburb. Mr. Hinkleman and Mr. Charles were the first persons to erect cottages on the main street of this new residence section. In 1910 Stoneington had almost one hundred houses and a population of five hundred or more.

Two municipal tickets were in the field in this year. One of the proposed tickets were headed by A. J. Nunnally for mayor, aldermen J. B. Woodward, Julius Powe, J. H. Spigener, J. M. Thornton, J. T. Adams,

A. M. Ballard, Joe Hubbard, J. Ed. Stone. The other ticket was as follows: Mayor William H. Skaggs, aldermen Dr. J. H. Johnson, F. E. Wilson, Dr. B. W. Toole, N. J. Hubbard, Jno. R. Garrett, G. A. Joiner, W. N. Boynton, J. B. McMillan. At the convention in the court house in March, 1889, Mr. Skaggs and the aldermen associated with him on the published ticket received the nomination.

As an evidence of the longevity of the citizens of the county an item from the Talladega Reporter published May 15, 1889, recites that Mr. Chas. Carter, living seven miles from the city entertained a few friends at dinner, and some one suggested making a list of the names and ages of those present with the following result: Charles Carter, 86, Rev. Daniel Duncan 63, Maj. W. L. Terry 81, Edward Scott 76, W. L. Lewis 80, Dr. Jno. H. Vandiver 73, R. A. McMillan 69, Dr. B. W. Groce 69, J. B. Huey 67, Dr. R. M. Henderson 63 and S. M. Jemison 62. The average age of those present being over 73, and the aggregate ages of the eleven persons being 809 years.

To encourage thrift among the Talladega boys Mr. J. M. Lewis, a wealthy capitalist annually for two years gave a number of boys three dollars and a pocket knife with an offer of a prize to the boy who would add the largest sum of money to the three dollars given him. January 1st, 1890 sixty boys appeared and it is interesting to learn their names and amount of their savings. James Ivey \$138.25, Ray McConnell \$55, Hampton Henderson \$11, George Bauerlein \$62, Lovick Mullinax \$114, Ernest Bingham \$6, Carl Laverty \$13.25, Joe Venable \$36, Dwight Boynton \$36.50, August Donahoo \$11, Arthur Bingham \$6, Lennis Brannon \$129, Almuth Vandiver \$63.70. Other boys present were Harold Stockdale, Eugene Hobbs, Clifton Sitton, Conrad Puckett, Lee Ballard, Willie Austin, Borden Burr, Julian Fleetwood, John Adams, Cecil Schwine, Tom Anderson, George Towles, Jim Henderson, Henry Davis, Johnson Stamps, Hugh Brown, Grenville Thornton, Rice Brown, Harvey Joiner and Kennon Thetford.

Under date of February 5, 1890, the Mountain Home prints an "Appeal to the ladies of the city and county of Talladega" to aid in getting up funds to build the Confederate monument. The card is signed by Mrs. N. S. McAfee, president, and Miss Mary Wood, secretary, and states that an entertainment will be given in the middle store in the Browne-Huey block on February 14 to raise money for this purpose. Two hundred and twenty-five dollars was secured by this entertainment. It appears from this card that the committee of men appointed to secure

funds for this purpose, some years previous to this were not successful in their efforts.

The county Democratic convention April 23rd, 1890, was presided over by Dr. Sam W. Welch, with Messrs. J. C. Wilson and John H. Donahoo secretaries. W. T. Webb and J. H. Wilson were nominated as members of the legislature. Mr. C. C. Whitson was made chairman of the county executive committee. The convention was solid for Capt. Jas. Crook, of Calhoun, for governor.

June 4, 1890, at the close of the term of the city schools medals were awarded to the various scholars on the basis of deportment, scholarship and attendance. In the first grade Henry Cain received the medal, donated by Gov. E. Brewer, Esq. In the second grade Miss Jessie Lane was the recipient of the medal donated by the board of education. The third grade successful pupil was Miss Bessie Lane, who received a medal donated by Vandiver Bros. Joseph Duglinson, of the fourth grade, won a medal donated by S. H. Henderson & Co. In the fifth grade Miss Wallace Wood was the winner of the medal donated by Supt. J. B. Graham. Miss Louie Stamps received the medal in the sixth grade offered by Hon. Wm. H. Skaggs. In the high school Miss Hallie Henderson received the medal given by Capt. R. H. Isbell.

CHAPTER XXXIX

The roster of officers of Talladega county during 1890-1892 consisted of Hon. G. K. Miller, Judge of Probate, Arthur T. Wood, Sheriff, James A. Huey, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Marcus M. Duncan, Tax Assessor, J. E. Camp, Tax Collector, C. W. Stringer, County Treasurer, and J. W. Vandiver, Register in Chancery. The place of Probate Judge having become vacant by the resignation of Hon. William T. Thornton, the Governor appointed Hon. G. K. Miller to the office, leaving a vacancy in the office of Register in Chancery, which Chancellor Graham filled, upon the petition of the bar, by the appointment of J. W. Vandiver as Register in 1884. Judge G. K. Miller had been Register in Chancery for eighteen years consecutively up to this date.

The city had elected Hon. William H. Skaggs mayor for one or two terms, previous to this year, and Mr. Skaggs administrations had been marked by much municipal progress. He built a city school, established a water works and sewer system, and enacted a penal code. Mr. P. S.

Williams was the efficient marshal, or chief of police under Mr. Skaggs during the larger portion of this period. The Board of Aldermen serving in 1890-1892 with Mr. Skaggs as mayor consisted of J. Melville Thornton, Jno. M. Barrett, Wm. H. Boynton, Geo. A. Joiner, T. S. Plowman and J. B. McMillan. P. S. Williams was Chief of Police and under him were Policemen J. M. McKee, G. A. Kerney, A. Austin and Charles Kern. The city campaign for mayor in 1891-1892 between William H. Skaggs and E. H. Dryer was one of exceeding bitterness, which left wounds requiring years to heal. Mr. Dryer had come to Talladega from Tuskegee and had engaged in law practice. He partially represented the conservative, or "Old Foggy" element, while Skaggs led the voters who desired progress, and the building of the city out of Talladega—there being exceptions, on both sides to this classification. Campaign dodgers were issued, anonymous circulars were scattered over the streets at night to be read by indignant, and delighted voters, according to each one's predilections, in the morning, and friends grew into enemies in arguing for their respective candidates.

Mr. Dryer was elected by a narrow majority. The aldermen serving with Mr. Dryer were W. F. Thetford, W. B. Newman, J. H. Hicks and F. C. McAlpine, Jno. T. Adams and C. W. Stringer, J. E. Stone and Geo. T. McElderry, Perry F. Smith, chief of police, W. B. Newman, city clerk, J. C. Bowie, treasurer, E. W. Walpole, city engineer, D. H. Dunlap, street superintendent.

After the close of a year or more of the Dryer administration when the time came for another election on February 18, 1893, the Democrats of the city met in convention at the court house with 182 voters present charged with the duty of again nominating a mayor. The local paper says it "was a pretty much one-sided convention," as the anti-Skaggs men did not wish to make the old fight more bitter, and therefore remained away. Says the News-Reporter "The committee on credentials was made up of Dick Heine, H. L. McElderry, Jno. M. Jones, J. A. Powe, and James Linton." A ballot resulted in 130 votes for Mr. Skaggs, W. M. Boynton 26, J. A. Edwards 4, scattering 17.

Mr. Skaggs was declared the nominee, and he arose and in a speech of ten minutes declined the honor, in favor of Col. W. M. Boynton. But a motion to suspend the rules and nominate J. A. Edwards, by acclamation, prevailed, and Edwards was immediately elected. The aldermen selected to serve with Mayor J. A. Edwards were Jno. R. Barrett, and Z.

H. Clardy, Jno. W. Bishop and T. S. Plowman, Jno. M. Jones and A. J. Nunnally, Wm. H. Skaggs and R. Heine.

During the previous Dryer administration, which was badly hampered by lack of funds, the city building on the South side of Battle Street, was erected.

More or less rancor and vituperation has marked the contested mayoralty campaign of Talladega since the events here recorded, but this was the high water mark of villification and politica labuse in its history up to that time.

The ward heeler and peanut politician is always a blackguard at heart but to this date these mud slingers had not developed into professionals.

The organization of the newly elected board of aldermen took place and there were four candidates for city clerk in the running, to-wit: Messrs. Wm. J. Rhodes, Venable, Huston and Lucius Boswell. Mr. Boswell was elected. For chief of police the candidates were three in number, Mesrs. P. F. Smith, C. W. Stringer and John Marcus. Charles Kern, a dark horse, was chosen. The congested condition of the dockets of the circuit court during the fall and winter of 1892 caused much discussion to arise as to the establishment of a City Court for the purpose of trying cases more rapidly, and the advisability of such a court for this county was widely argued. There was a bar meeting on this subject but the lawyers differed. A draft of a bill to establish a City Court was read at this meeting but its provisions were not agreed to by the bar.

The local papers, notably the Southern Alliance, published by Griffith in the basement of the "Big Four"—the News Reporter, published by Wm. E. Henkel, and the Mountain Home all contained communications, editorials and squibs about the proposed court. J. W. Vandiver had an argument in its favor in the Southern Alliance in July, 1892, while in the issue of the News-Reporter for January, 1893, there is a column interview with Hon. G. K. Miller, in which he opposes the establishment of the proposed City Court on account of the great additional expense to the county. Upon the Legislature passing the City Court bill in February, 1893, Hon. Jno. W. Bishop was selected for its judge by common consent. The candidates for solicitor of the court were Lee M. Otts, Jas. B. Newman, J. C. Oakes and Mr. Alex. M. Garber—

a rising young lawyer—who settled with us two years ago, coming from South Alabama—to quote the words of a local paper. Mr. Garber secured the appointment, which he filled for twelve years thereafter, and was afterwards elected Attorney General of the State of Alabama.

Our representatives in the Legislature during 1893 were Messrs. G. A. Joiner and William Baker. Mr. J. A. Woodward succeeded Hon. J. E. Camp as Tax Collector. The Circuit Judge was Hon. Leroy F. Box, of St. Clair county, the Chancellor of the district was Hon. S. K. McSpadden, of Cherokee county, a former citizen of Talladega.

The News Reporter, edited by Wm. E. Henkel reports that on Monday morning, July 10, 1893 "amidst the wildest of enthusiasm, President Kyser and Master Tom Plowman broke dirt for the cotton factory," this being the first cotton factory erected here. W. W. Seals succeeded to the place of superintendent of the Talladega public schools in 1893, and a school census of the children of the town taken that year by the Chief of Police, Charles Kern, shows a total of 548 children, 17 white children were found illiterate, and 62 colored illiterate ones were reported as unable to read or write. Isbell college chose Rev. P. P. Winn as its president, succeeding Miss Sullivan.

There was a split in the Democratic party of the county and state, mainly over the candidacy of Capt. Reuben F. Kolb for Governor, during 1893 and 1894. Efforts were made by local politicians of Talladega to gain the consent of the Jeffersonians or Populists, to run a combination ticket for the Legislature, but the proposition failed by a tie vote before the Populite committee. Rancor and bitterness prevailed. Neither side would hear the speakers of the other faction. There was much talk of fraud at the ballot box, and threats of violence of the counting out at the elections continued. The regular Democrats nominated Hon. Hugh L. McElderry for the State Senate, Messrs. J. E. Camp and George A. Hill being the nominees for the Legislature. The Jeffersonians selected John H. Wilson as their candidate for Senator, and nominated Messrs. W. M. Thweatt and W. A. Cook for the Legislature. For the first time a modified form of the Australian ballot method was used, so that it required much instruction to enable the voter to cast his ballot intelligently and in conformity to the rules. Oates and Kolb were the respective candidates for Governor. Oates was elected, whether fairly or otherwise is yet a disputed question, and Talladega county gave Kolb 105 majority. Messrs. J. E. Camp and W. A. Cook were chosen as representatives. Clay coun-

ty and Talladega together constituted the senatorial district, and these counties combined gave Hon. Hugh L. McElderry a majority for the State Senate. General Wm. H. Forney having died while representing this congressional district, Mr. Gaston A. Robbins, of Selma, succeeded him until a convention meeting at Anniston in September, 1894, nominated Hon. Mardis Wood of Selma, who afterward withdrew and Gaston A. Robbins was nominated.

A primary to select a candidate for congress had been held in this, the 4th district, and the face of the returns showed that Hon. Thos. S. Plowman, of Talladega, had been elected. Upon it being charged that the nomination was fraudulent Mr. Plowman declined to accept a nomination upon which there was the slightest suspicion.

Early in 1893, Prof. J. W. A. Wright, a noted educator, and his son, Julius Tutwiler Wright, established in Talladega at the Lyman place on North Street, the Talladega Military Academy. The officers of Co. "A" Talladega cadets in February, 1894, were Clifton L. Sitton, captain, Almuth C. Vandiver, first lieutenant, W. Kern Smith, second lieutenant, James A. Winn, first sergeant, Russell Phillips, second sergeant, Emmett McKibbon, third sergeant, Joe Chambers, fourth sergeant, Joe Dunglinson, fifth sergeant, Rice Woodward, first corporal, Claude Browne, second corporal, Dwight Boynton, third corporal, John Adams, fourth corporal. After the death of Prof. Wright, Professor Griggs took charge of the academy, and many bright boys were prepared for the various colleges of the land while this institution was in existence. The public schools of the city had for superintendent in 1894, Mr. J. O. Sturdevant. Miss Brown had charge of the music department. Miss Hunter the art department.

The Alabama Chautauqua Association was organized in 1893 by Rev. Sam P. West, and for two seasons the session of the assembly were held at Shelby Springs, but that place was found to be unable to entertain the crowds, so that a movement was inaugurated to build a Tabernacle or auditorium in Talladega and remove the assembly to that point.

The committee appointed to select the lot, and get contributions for the building consisted of Dr. B. W. Toole, C. S. Jones, S. H. Henderson, J. H. Johnson and H. L. McElderry. With much energy and judgment the committee erected a building costing about \$2500 to \$3000, on the lot where the Carnegie library now stands, securing a twenty

year lease on the lot of Mrs. Kate Lawson at a nominal rental. The citizens met and agreed to board the talent free, and to open their homes during the Chautauqua for transient boarders at a low rate. For three years Sam. P. West conducted the assembly for twenty-five days each year, furnishing some world wide celebrities for the platform, but upon Mr. West accepting work which carried him away from Talladega, the committee was about to abandon the assembly when Wellington Vandiver went before the committee begging them to continue the Chautauqua. He was answered that the assembly already owed \$80 and that no one would undertake the further carrying on of the work as it was running at a loss. Mr. Vandiver proposed to obtain twenty names of citizens who would guarantee to pay up any shortage and on this being accepted the management of the Chautauqua assembly was turned over to Mr. Vandiver. He and his associates carried on the Chautauqua for twelve years from this date, without compensation of any kind, but doing it for the benefit of the community, until the tearing down of the Chautauqua auditorium to give place to the Carnegie library rendered it impracticable to continue the Alabama assembly. Probably nothing had a more lasting effect on the morals, the education of a community than these sessions of the Alabama assembly, and the men who so unselfishly worked for the uplift and betterment of their neighbors deserve a monument greater than is contained in the brief annals of this history.

CHAPTER XL

Hon. Leroy F. Box, of St. Clair, Judge of this judicial district, died on March 26th, 1895, thereby leaving a vacancy in the office of circuit judge. A few warm personal friends of George E. Brewer, who had been the Superintendent of our public schools, and at this time a young lawyer, immediately visited Montgomery and pleaded with Governor Oates for his appointment to the vacant judgeship. The names of not all the delegates can be recalled, but the ones that can be remembered are Hon. Thos. S. Plowman, Ed. H. Dryer, James B. Newman and Wellington Vandiver, of Talladega, and Messrs. Sturdevant and Vaughn, of Tallapoosa. After an hour's conference with Governor Oates he promptly agreed to appoint Mr. Brewer, who received his commission, and held court in Shelby county the following week. Judge Brewer made a faithful and hardworking judge, and died in office a few years later.

May 12th, 1905, Rev. Linn R. Walker was installed as a pastor of the First Presbyterian church, succeeding Rev. J. H. Skinner, who had

died while pastor about one year previous. Dr. George R. McNeill, of LaFayette, Ala., was elected to the President of Isbell College, the new name of the Former Synodical Female College of Talladega. Captain R. H. Isbell, of Talladega, having made a handsome donation of this college, its name was changed as a fit acknowledgement of his gift. Dr. William Hart also died in April of this year at Auburn, New York. Dr. Hart supplied the pulpit of the Presbyterian church for six months during 1888-1889. Also the only Governor ever furnished by Talladega county died on June 8, 1895. Hon. Lewis Eliphalet Parsons, of Boone county, New York, Governor of Alabama, and for fifty years a leader of the Talladega bar, was for many years our most distinguished citizen. A tribute to him on the part of the Talladega bar is published in the News-Reporter of June 15, 1895, signed by the committee of lawyers consisting of J. B. Graham, E. H. Dryer, Geo. E. Brewer, J. K. Dixon and Wellington Vandiver.

The announcements in the local papers for mayor in 1895 exhibit the names of R. Heine, William J. Rhodes and J. G. Savery. Mr. William J. Rhodes was elected.

The Bicycle Riders of 1895 met in the city hall on Friday the 14th day of June, 1895, and resolved that bicycle riding on the sidewalks should be prohibited. Those signing this spirited resolution were T. H. Nance, W. H. Boynton, Sam Goldberg, J. O. Morris, E. H. Dryer, B. B. Simms, Lula Shouse, J. J. Thomas, J. F. Austin, J. A. Stamps, E. S. Miller, W. Fleetwood, Geo. P. Bauerlein, W. J. H. Miller, W. R. Brannon, J. H. Dumas, Jno. F. Bledsoe, Ada Manghum, F. P. McConnell, O. E. Miller. These cyclists suggested certain ordinances for the city council to pass, and agreed to help the city enforce them against reckless cyclists. Of course, some of the names herein set down are now grandfathers and ditto mothers, who will probably deny that they ever rode a wheel.

Truly the years from 1890 to 1895 took from us many of our loved ones who are yet resting in "God's Acre" under the sod and dew waiting for the coming of Eternal Spring. Here are some names hastily recalled with the dates of their departure: August 10th, 1890, Maj. Terry, railroad agent and elder in Presbyterian church; 1891, July 23rd, R. Edgar Skaggs, editor and writer; October 18th, Rev. W. W. Houston, pastor Presbyterian church; October 28th, Rev. Daniel Duncan, venerable minister of Methodist church; 1892, William J. Cunningham, prominent farmer and officer in Presbyterian church (died January 17th); January

21st, Mrs. A. M. Borden; March 3rd, J. P. Wood, a leading merchant; July 24th, William R. Huey, merchant; August 13, James A. Hogan, of Mardisville, pioneer, official; August 23rd, Capt. R. H. Isbell, banker, lawyer, philanthropist; August 23rd, Mrs. R. W. Smith; September 18th, Mrs. G. O. Wheeler; September 26th, George Stone Burns, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Burns; November 8th, John A. Savery, merchant, capitalist, official in Methodist church; 1893, January 13th, Dr. Paul Gist; January 16th, Mrs. M. J. Donahoo, owner and proprietor Exchange Hotel; April 9th, Miss Mollie Cowen; May 4th, Dr. Jos. H. Johnson, principal of the Deaf Institute, prominent Mason, officer M. E. church; July 16th, Lieut. W. E. May; July 1st, Miss May Charles; Sept. 20th, Mrs. Elizabeth Elston; Sept 27th, Mrs. Rebecca M. Warren; October 12th, Miss Florence Davis; Dec. 12th, Charles Kern, former city chief of police; Dec. 17, Wm., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Link; 1894, Myles Jerry Greene, son of Dr. and Mrs. E. B. Wren; Jan. 4th, Mrs. Eliza Cross; Jan. 28th, Robert M. Jones; Jan. 25, Mrs. O. W. Cameron; Jan. 25, Rev. Dr. Cutler; Feb. 7, Mrs. D. Morgan Rodgers; March 15th, Mr. John B. Huey, pioneer, merchant, officer of M. E. church; April 26th, Theron R. Foster; May 1, Prof. R. H. Spivey; May 15th, Mrs. J. C. Knox; May 25, Rev. S. J. Loyd, Baptist minister; May 24, Dr. R. A. Moseley; May 29, Hon. Arthur Bingham, former state treasurer; June 14, Mrs. J. R. Broadstreet; June 20, Mr. Lee Dean; July 4, Rev. J. H. Skinner, pastor Presbyterian church; August, Maj. J. W. A. Wright, principal Talladega Military Institute; Aug. 23, Jas. Lawson, Esq., pioneer official; Aug. 30, Mr. J. R. Broadstreet; 1895, Jan. 26, Hon. Wm. Baker, former representative; Hon. Charles Carter, pioneer official; Mr. William L. Lewis, pioneer teacher; Mr. Amos C. Baker; June 8th, Hon. Lewis E. Parsons, former governor; June 25, Jeff L. Stockdale; July 19th, Mr. John D. Renfroe; Oct. 22, Mrs. Rebecca C. Whitson; Oct. 26, Mrs. Wm. J. McKensie; Oct. 26, Mrs. A. E. Watson; Rev. Thos. A. Cook, Episcopal minister, veteran teacher.

The perusal of this list causes those who knew these persons in life to pause and reflect "How soon we are forgot when we are dead."

The Democratic official ticket to be voted on April 11, 1896, primary, contained the following names, for Governor, Joseph F. Johnston, Richard H. Clarke; for the legislature, Cecil Browne, George A. Hill, J. B. Sanford; for treasurer, C. W. Stringer, Geo. T. McElderry, Wm. E. Dickson; for tax assessor, Marcus M. Duncan, James A. Matson; for tax collector, Adam O. Riser, Joseph A. Woodward; for sheriff, W. A.

Glover, M. W. Lide, J. F. Thomas, Walter L. Gover, Winston G. Terry; Commissioner first district, M. H. Hansard, W. Ben Groce; second district, J. L. Riddle, W. T. Patterson, A. J. Nunnally; third district, G. K. Armbruster, J. T. White, J. M. Hare, R. M. McClatchey; fourth district, R. M. Phillips, B. F. Cliett; coroner, Richard Heine.

Those who won were: Johnson for Governor, Browne and Sanford for the legislature, treasurer W. E. Dickinson, assessor M. M. Duncan, collector Adam O. Riser, sheriff W. A. Glover, commissioners Hansard, Nunnally, Armbruster and Cliett.

The Chancellor of the district, Hon. Samuel K. McSpadden, died in May, 1896. He came to Talladega in 1842 and worked at the sadler's trade under P. D. Simmons, living here seven years, and while here he read law under Judge Samuel F. Rice. On his removal to Cherokee county, Ala., he married Miss Charlsie Garrett. Hon. James R. Dowdell, of LaFayette, at one time solicitor of the fifth district, was appointed in his stead.

A telephone company was organized in Talladega in August, 1896, with G. A. Mattison as president, Frank L. Hawley, secretary and S. C. Oliver treasurer. The Bell Co. afterwards bought out and acquired this company with its equipment and franchise.

The election of county officers this year was hotly contested, the Jeffersonian Democrats having a ticket in the field for assessor, collector, sheriff and commissioners. The result having been declared in favor of the regular Democrats, the Jeffersonians employed counsel, consisting of Tompkins & Troy, Wellington Vandiver and G. W. Parsons, of Talladega, and A. P. Longshore of Shelby, and filed a contest in the probate court. Thos. J. Wilson vs. M. M. Duncan being the title of the suit. Hon. G. K. Miller being ineligible, Circuit Judge Brewer appointed Jas. B. Newman, an attorney of the court to hear the contest. Messrs. E. H. Dryer, Knox, Bowie and Dixon, Whitson & Graham and W. B. Castleberry, were the lawyers who represented Duncan. Judge Newman decided that a bond filed in the case limiting the amount of liability for costs to \$500 was not sufficient in the case, and dismissed the proceedings for this reason. On appeal the Supreme Court without passing on the merits of the case decided that a bond not in the statutory form, but good as a common law liability, was not sufficient in the case, a decision unsatisfactory to both sides.

In September of 1896 the Congressional convention met at Shelby Springs to nominate a Democratic candidate for Congress. This district was composed of the counties of Cleburne, Calhoun, Talladega, Shelby, Chilton and Dallas. R. B. Kelley of Calhoun, Craig Smith of Dallas and T. S. Plowman of Talladega, were the candidates. There were eighteen hundred and eighteen ballots taken. When Calhoun county was released from her iron clad instructions to vote for Kelley, the vote of the delegates were finally given to Plowman and he was elected. The Republicans put up T. H. Aldrich as their candidate. Plowman was declared elected by the officials, but Aldrich contested his seat before Congress, the history of which can be found in the Congressional record. Mr. E. H. Dryer, of Talladega, was also nominated for Congress by the Gold Standard adherents at Calera on October 4, 1896.

During the week closing November 14th, 1896, Rev. Sam P. Jones and George Stuart conducted a revival at the Chautauqua auditorium. This was the first time many people of the city had heard the celebrated Jones. The people liked Stuart better than Jones. At every meeting the great auditorium was filled. Jones was fearless, frequently flaying the county officers, and Mayor Rhodes by name; in fact, his utterances were not always well received, although no open protest was made. Professor Tillman furnished the music, organizing a great chorus of several hundred voices. The ultimate result of the meeting was good, and the people subscribed \$724 to pay the expenses of the week's revival.

Each week during 1894-1895 and 1896 there are calls and announcements in the local papers from the officers of the "Talladega Rifles." This company was organized in 1872, its first captain being Thos. S. Plowman. J. Hal Johnson succeeded Capt. Plowman, R. W. Henderson was the third captain of the company, and John H. Donahoo succeeded him. In 1893 the company was reorganized and Frank P. McConnell made captain, W. H. Boynton was made first lieutenant, C. W. Vandiver, 2nd lieut., John F. Bledsoe, Jr., 3rd. lieut., Dr. W. C. Hearn, chaplain, W. C. McMillan, 1st sergeant, Alex M. Garber commanded the company after Capt. Donahoo. Garber's captaincy continuing through 1895-1896. The finest and best young men of the city have from time to time been members and officers of this company, which has averaged fifty men, rank and file through all its existence.

The mayor and board of aldermen who had served the previous term were nominated by a mass meeting on March 17, 1897, to succeed

themselves, there being no opposition. The board was composed of W. J. Rhodes, Mayor; Aldermen Hayden and Powe, H. L. McElderry and W. J. Adams, S. C. Oliver and Jno. M. Jones, D. R. Van Pelt and R. Heine. The finances of the city were involved, money was hard to obtain and the interest on the bonds of the city difficult to meet.

A law forbidding stock to run at large, applying to parts of Talladega county was hotly debated, and antagonized in 1897. On the 27th of April the court house was crowded to overflowing with farmers—the purpose of the meeting, as stated by M. D. Ivey being to discuss the stock law and to devise plans, or means, to test its constitutionality. A. R. A. Harris, of Beat 8, was temporary chairman, Mr. F. A. Butt, being made permanent chairman, and M. D. Ivey secretary of the meeting. Speeches were made by W. H. Moody, Geo. A. Vice, Jimmie Cater, J. B. Stapp, E. F. Cooley, F. A. Butt and others. Committeemen were selected to serve for each beat and a treasurer selected to receive funds in each beat. The committee selected for Beat 5, the city of Talladega consisted of P. M. Burk, W. H. Moody, J. A. Edwards, with J. A. Bingham, as treasurer. At a later day the supreme court of Alabama held the stock law constitutional. At this day it is considered wiser to fence in cattle, rather than fence them out.

The Seventh Annual Convention of the State of the Christian Endeavor Society met in Talladega on May 5, 1897. The opening praise service was led by Wm. E. Henkle. Address of welcome by C. C. Whitson, of Talladega. Response by J. C. Abernathy of Montevallo. William Shaw, treasurer of the United Society of Christian Endeavors, of Boston, was the foremost speaker of the convention. Others who discussed topics were: J. C. Crawford, Huntsville; E. P. Davis, Montgomery; Mrs. E. M. Sheldon, Talladega; Rev. J. N. McGinley, Thomas, Ala.; Rev. G. C. Kelley, D. D., Birmingham; Rev. A. B. Curry, Birmingham; Rev. T. K. Roberts, Harpersville; Rev. C. B. McDaniel, Montgomery; J. T. W. Sloane, Montgomery; S. J. Cassells, Montgomery; Rev. H. L. Walker, Huntsville; Rev. J. M. Watson, Birmingham.

Two hundred teachers attended the Sixteenth Session of the Alabama Educational Association meeting with the Alabama Chautauqua in Talladega on June 21, 1897.

Hon. A. J. Peterman, of Louisville, Ky., addressed the association. Miss Louise Hurst, of Huntsville gave a graceful illustration of exer-

cises in physical culture; Prof. W. M. Baskerville, of Nashville, spoke on "Southern Literature." Prof. J. E. Strickland, of Talladega, was elected a member of the state board. The Fourth District Agricultural School was located at Sylacauga in July, 1897. The board of control for the first term was R. B. Kelley of Anniston, J. M. Thornton, Talladega, J. F. Morgan, Heflin, Edward J. Smith, Sylacauga, J. S. Walthall, Harpersville.

The Methodist preachers appointed by the conference to serve this section during 1897 show the names of V. O. Hawkins at Talladega Station, Talladega Circuit C. L. Herring. Plantersville, W. E. Foust. Munford, H. S. Matthews. Sylacauga, W. O. Horton. Fayetteville, J. S. Chadwick. Anniston, J. F. Sturdivant. Oxford, R. A. Timmons, S. M. Hosmer, presiding elder.

On January 1st, 1898, Hon. John W. Bishop, Judge of the City Court of Talladega, after five years' service as such Judge, declined another term and Hon. G. K. Miller, then Judge of Probate, was appointed by Gov. Johnston, in his stead. Hon. J. E. Camp received the appointment of Probate Judge from the Governor. Judge Camp had been a member of the legislature in 1894-1895, serving on the Ways and Means Committee of the House and the Committee on Penitentiary and Criminal Administration. Judge Bishop formed a partnership with Col. Garber, the County Solicitor, to practice law.

In the early months of the year the local papers contain cards from J. B. Graham, and Circuit Solicitor B. F. Wilson, respectively, on the subject of submitting their aspiration for the office of Circuit Solicitor to a primary. It was proposed by Mr. Graham that such action should be taken, and that the vote of the primary should instruct the members of the Legislature whom to vote for as Circuit Solicitor, but Mr. Wilson did not favor this course. When the Legislature met, there were three candidates before the body, Messrs. Wilson and Graham, of Talladega, and Mr. Coleman of Calhoun. The Legislature elected Mr. Coleman. Some time afterward Mr. Coleman resigned to accept another office, and Mr. Graham secured the place by appointment, and filled the office until his unfortunate death at the Southern railway station by being run over by a car of that road, at the passenger station in Talladega.

The good roads movement is not so recent as one might suppose, as in February, 1898, a State Good Roads Convention met in Anniston

with hundreds of delegates present from every portion of the state. The officers of the convention were T. W. Ayers, President; and one Vice President from each Congressional district—the member from Talladega being John A. Edwards.

The County Democratic Convention of 1898 was presided over by J. C. Wilson. Messrs. Geo. W. Porter and W. T. Dean being secretaries. Hon. J. E. Camp was nominated for Probate Judge without opposition. The names of James A. Huey and M. G. McCargo were placed in nomination for Circuit Clerk, but before the result of the first ballot was announced, the name of McCargo was withdrawn, and Huey received the nomination. W. J. Cannon and E. C. Dameron, of Sylacauga and Childersburg, respectively, were selected as members of the Legislature. M. H. Hansard and R. E. Cook were nominated for commissioners.

The convention instructed the nominees for the Legislature to vote for J. B. Graham for Circuit Solicitor.

CHAPTER XLI

The Populists of Talladega county held their convention Wednesday, April 27th, 1898, and nominated Jos. A. Edwards for Probate Judge. For the Legislature Jos. Camp and R. B. Caudle. For commissioners of 1st and 2nd districts Samuel Stewart and A. F. Jones. No nomination was made for circuit clerk. J. H. Lawson was made chairman of the County Executive Committee, and the editor of the Home state: "We understand that the delegates are for M. D. Ivey for Judge of the Seventh Circuit." April 25th, 1898, war was declared with Spain. A local item of April 27th in the Home states that "A circular letter was sent to the Talladega Rifles asking how many of their members were willing to offer their services, in case of a war with Spain. Immediately a meeting was called and the Captain and Lieutenants offered their services," in case a sufficient number of men would volunteer to form a nucleus upon which a full company could be formed "and it was ascertained that such an undertaking would be altogether impracticable."

The Democratic convention to elect a State Senator met at Chandler Springs May 4th, 1898. Jno. R. McCain, T. H. Howle and J. C. McDiarmid were the candidates for the Senate. Jno. R. McCain was nominated on the first ballot, and on motion of C. C. Whitson of Talladega "the nominee of this convention be and he is hereby instructed to vote

in the Democratic caucus of the Legislature for J. B. Graham for Solicitor of the circuit." This motion prevailed by the following vote: Clay, voting 30 votes for this motion, and 24 against it, and Talladega voting 95 votes for the motion and 14 against it.

Notwithstanding the failure of the attempt to get the Talladega Rifles to enlist for the war with Spain, as a full company, about sixty of the Talladega young men volunteered, many of whom were members of this company. Capt. Clifton Sitton carried a number of men with him to the Oxford company, and Capt. Romaine Boyd induced a number of others to join the Bessemer company with him. None of these troops saw actual war, remaining in camp at Miami, Florida, awaiting commands to go to the front, and chafing much under this fact. Capt. Sitton was appointed 2nd Lieut. in Company "I" First Alabama Volunteers. J. J. Taylor was given a Sergeant's place. Will Glover, Postell Lewis and Luke McMillan each received the rank of corporal. W. J. Austin was made Artificer, M. R. Adams company's clerk, and D. M. Mallory was appointed Regimental Police Sergeant. Thirty-two students of the Talladega College, colored, volunteered to serve in the war with Spain, and left Talladega on June 8th for Mobile to join the army.

The finances of the city of Talladega from May 1st, 1897, to May 1st, 1898, is carefully set out in a report made by Mayor Rhodes on the date last above given. The total receipts of the city from all sources amounted to thirteen thousand, three hundred and sixty dollars and fifteen cents. Four thousand, three hundred and twenty-eight dollars was the total amount received from tax on real and personal property. Five thousand, two hundred and forty dollars being paid in as receipts from licenses. Six hundred and eighty-five dollars was the sum total of fines assessed. The following amounts were paid out: Salaries \$1684.92, on streets \$1237.47; on gas and water \$1857.04; sanitary \$107.90; on fire department \$76.75; on small pox and scarlet fever \$1114.72. According to His Honor's report it required \$2789.75 to run the City School for that year.

The City Council adopted a resolution on June 15th, 1898 with a "Whereas" that there exists great dissatisfaction among a large part of the consumers of water at the present rates charged by the Talladega Light & Water Company for water supplied to the said consumers, and providing further that a committee of three be appointed to investigate, and call for all necessary information as to charges for water, and to pre-

pare a schedule of rates to govern the company. Messrs. R. Heine, S. C. Oliver and John M. Jones were appointed as the committee.

The official returns of the state and county elections as published in the Mountain Home of August 10th, 1898, show that 3021 votes were cast in the race for Governor in Talladega county. Johnson 2096; Gilbert B. Deans 765; W. B. Witherspoon 113; Andre J. Warner 47. For Judge of the Circuit George E. Brewer received 1999 votes; George W. Parsons 1121 votes; M. D. Ivey 126 votes. Representatives William J. Cannon 2022; E. C. Dameron 1959; W. J. Camp 1014; Robert R. Caudle 837 votes. For clerk of the circuit court, James A. Huey had 2306 votes, John A. Carter 949 votes.

Mayor W. J. Rhodes died in August of this year, leaving an unexpired term of eight months. The city council endeavored to fill this vacancy. Messrs. R. Heine and R. Ven Pelt being voted for as chief executive of the city. There was an apparent deadlock until the 117 ballot, when Hon. Hugh L. McElderry was chosen by acclamation. Mr. McElderry served only a short time, but he showed himself to be a careful, diligent and pains-taking official. In a letter written from Waxahatchie, Texas, under date of January 4th, 1899, he states that he did not desire a renomination.

"The Oldest Inhabitant" is usually a liar about the weather, but these figures taken from the News-Reporter of February 18th, 1899, can be accepted as true. February 12th, 1899 six o'clock a.m., five degrees above zero registered by the mercury, a blizzard of blinding snow falling, and a high wind raging. At noon, on the same date, sixteen degrees above zero, and still snowing. At 9 o'clock p.m., eight degrees above zero—snow-fall four inches. February 13th nine degrees below zero at 6 a.m. February 14th at 5 a.m. two degrees below zero.

March 4th, 1899 was the occasion for the assembling of the usual convention to nominate a Board of Mayor and Alderman. Chairman S. H. Henderson called the meeting to order. Hon. G. K. Miller served as Chairman by election. Four tellers were appointed, Messrs. J. K. Dixon, J. H. Johnson, A. M. Garber and W. L. Miller. Mr. G. T. McElderry nominated Mr. S. C. Oliver for mayor, Hon. J. B. Graham nominated J. M. Thornton for Mayor. The ballot resulted, Thornton 181, Oliver 81, Scattering 2. In the first ward the names of J. A. Powe, G. A. Mattison and J. W. Cowen were presented as Aldermen for that ward; result,

Powe 176; Mattison 147, Cowen 122. In the second ward R. H. McMillan and J. E. Michael having no opposition, were nominated by acclamation. Four names were presented from the third ward—each receiving the votes written after their names—Dr. W. F. Slaughter 128; J. H. Donahoo 105; W. B. Castleberry 103; George Dunglinson 58. In the fourth ward, Mr. A. G. Storey received 150 votes, D. R. VanPelt received 124 votes, P. S. Williams received 68 votes and F. P. McConnell received 34 votes.

The announcements for candidates to represent the county in the constitutional convention, as contained in the columns of the News-Reporter, were those of J. W. Heacock, J. C. Wilson, C. C. Whitson, and T. S. Plowman. The Convention selected Messrs. Cecil Browne and C. C. Whitson.

For several weeks in June 1899, the city board of education was equally divided as to the selection of a new superintendent, due to the absence of a member of the board. The two candidates so ardently supported by the board were Prof. Bross the incumbent for the term just closing, and Prof. Howard Griggs, the successor of Capt. Wright of the Military Academy. On the return of Mr. Browne, the absent member of the board, another meeting was called and Prof. Howard Griggs was elected, and the following assistants chosen: Miss Ida Henderson, high school assistant; Mrs. Kate Finnegan 5th and 6th grades; Miss Enfield Joiner, 3rd and 4th grades; Miss Clara Cruikshank, 1st and 2nd grades. Prof. A. H. Todd had just closed a successful term of Isbell College. Prof. H. Sheffey Roller, succeeded Prof. Todd—having purchased the lease which expired July 1900 from Prof. Todd, also the patronage and good will of Isbel college, all for the sum of \$400.

The Talladega Iron & Steel Furnace was sold in 1894 on the petition of certain creditors, the aggregate indebtedness of the plant being one hundred and forty-seven thousand dollars.

It was understood at the time of the sale that the real parties who had purchased the furnace were Messrs. Ladenberg Thallman Co., of New York. A new corporation was organized in July 1899, known as the "Alabama Coal, Iron & Railway Co." of which Mr. Eugene Zimmerman, of Cincinnati was president. The purchase price, on paper, of the furnace was reported as \$123,000 and it was understood that it would require \$75,000 to put the plant in running order. Included in the pur-

chase was the Birmingham & Atlantic Railroad. The furnace and the Railroad company was then organized, consisted of Eugene Zimmerman, President, J. Carlson, of New York, Sec. and Treas., George Dunglinson, of Talladega, assistant treasurer; G. A. Mattison of Talladega, General superintendent, M. O. Guiss, of Pennsylvania, Auditor; B. J. Sitton, of Tennessee, Master mechanic. Two hundred coke ovens were contracted for and once more Talladega Furnace had smoke issuing from its chimneys. Mr. Eugene Zimmerman spent much of his time here, some relatives of his established a home at Talladega, and Miss Helena Zimmerman who married an English Duke was a frequent visitor to this city.

The large building on the South side of the public square burned in August 1899. The "Big Four" it was then called, was built in 1890 at a cost of \$26,000 by Eves Brothers of Cartersville, Ga., sub-contractors of Z. H. Clardy & Son of Talladega. It was alleged that the water pressure was not sufficient—that had there been a sufficient supply, under legal pressure of water, that the building and the stocks of goods would have been saved. A few weeks after the burning there was a meeting of the citizens on the subject, where some hot words passed between some of the leading citizens, and the officials of the Water Company. In the early weeks of September the charge of lack of water pressure again came up before the City Council, where the question was argued by leading lawyers, resulting in a resolution passed by the City Council declaring the existing contract between the city and the Water Company broken, and announcing that the city would, in the future, hold the contract as void. In October the Water Company was placed in the hands of a receiver "for technical purposes of a legal nature" and not because the Company was insolvent.

In the County Democratic Primary held in January 1900, the highest vote polled was for Sheriff, reaching 2,151 votes. Under the rules of the contest several of the officials were compelled to run a second time, not having received a majority of the votes. The two leading candidates for Tax Assessor, Sheriff and 2nd District Commissioners were voted for in the second race. Mr. J. A. Woodward, candidate for Tax Collector, won out over Mr. Riser. S. H. Henderson for Treasurer beat W. E. Dickinson.

The votes of the candidates who were compelled to run the race

over was as follows: For Assessor, Duncan 867; Burns 517; Porter 118: For Sheriff: Edwards 684; Dean 603; Lawson 358; Lide 316; Carlton 99; Henderson 35, Thomas 26: On the second election M. M. Duncan was chosen for the candidate of the party, receiving 1,180 votes as against 1,409 for Burns. J. B. Edwards was elected Sheriff over W. F. Dean by a vote of 1207 against 1,077. Mr. T. F. Elliott won as Commissioner over William Taylor 952 against 667.

The city was still further stirred up over the water question in May of 1900 by the Water Company notifying the citizens that under the authority given the Company by Judge Bruce of the Federal Court the water would be shut off Wednesday morning, May 17th, and neither the citizens nor the city would be supplied. Consternation prevailed when it was found that the city was without protection from fire, and without a water supply. The attorneys, and parties representing both sides had several meetings in the effort to settle the question. The Water Company had presented a bill to the city for \$2,800 for water service for fire protection. The city declined to pay it because the Big Four fire, and other fires had demonstrated that the city had enjoyed no protection. By May 26th 1900 the city had offered to buy the water works, and the offer had been accepted. The price agreed upon was forty-six thousand dollars. This included the gas works and a release from all claims against the city by the Water Company. It was proposed to issue bonds to the amount of sixty thousand dollars for the purpose of paying for the plant, improving it, and adding an electric light plant with any surplus left from the purchase price. Messrs. Dryer & Webb represented the city in the negotiations, and Messrs. Knox, Dixon & Bowie were the attorneys for the Water Company. The bonds were sold through Duke M. Farson, of Chicago at five and one half per cent interest and the News-Reporter of July 21st says: "This practically closes the Water-works complication, and assures the city of electric lights in the near future." John E. Montgomery was selected as Superintendent to succeed T. L. Bellengrath. A long ordinance was prepared providing that a commission should conduct the Water and Gas plant composed of three citizens of the city, who should receive no compensation whatever for their services as commissioners, and who, with the advice and assistance and consent of the city council should fix the price of gas and water for the city and consumers, and who should report annually their action to the city council.

CHAPTER XLII—1900-01

Hon. S. J. Bowie, of Talladega, was nominated for congress by the District Convention, at Selma, on August 15th, 1900, and was overwhelmingly elected in the election that followed.

Early in August, 1900, the News-Reporter changed hands, being sold by the owner and editor, Mr. Wm. E. Henkle, to Messrs. Otis Nickels, and R. G. Nickles. The policies of the paper remained unchanged, being Democratic.

The soldiers who fell in the battle of Talladega, fought between the hostile Creek Indians and General Andrew Jackson, on November 9th, 1813, were buried near where they fell, in a field southwest of Lashley's fort, about 300 yards, on lands of Major James Isbell. This latter gentleman had constructed a stone wall and a roof of pine shingles to mark the spot. Here these pioneer heroes slept three-fourths of a century until Monday, September 3rd, 1900, when their bones were disinterred under the care of the local chapter, the "Andrew Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution" of Talladega, and a more fitting place of sepulture found for them in the northeast corner of the city cemetery. Samuel Wheeler, Esq., personally superintended the excavating, and removal of the remains. He reports that the bones of only ten men were found. The accounts of the battle, and tradition, has always fixed the number at seveneten, but it is likely that some of the fatally wounded men were carried by Jackson to Fort Strother, or Ten Islands, near Greensport, and buried there. The ladies composing the chapter had expected aid from Congress in placing an imposing shaft over these soldiers, but being disappointed in this hope, they set to work and raised sufficient money to place a memorial over the spot where they now rest.

The list of officers and members of the Andrew Jackson Chapter of the D. A. R. engaging in this work follows: Mrs. J. H. Johnson, Regent, Mrs. J. M. Thornton, Vice Regent, Mrs. A. E. McAfee, Treasurer, Miss Vivian May, Secretary, Mrs. M. F. Blake, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. D. Link, Registrar, Mrs. F. H. Manning, Historian, Mrs. A. G. Storey, Assistant Historian; Board of Managers, Miss Mittie McElderry, chairman, Mrs. J. E. Stone, Mrs. W. G. Harrison, Miss Carrie Elston.

The bodies of the dead soldiers on removal of the earth above them,

were found reposing side by side, with no wrap or coffin. Time had removed all trace of identity, a beautiful set of teeth were found intact, and a few metal buttons, but the cloth of their garments crumbled on being exposed to the air.

Messrs. C. C. Whitson and J. W. Heacock represented the county in the legislature in 1900-01. On the death of Tax Assessor M. M. Duncan, during this year, Mr. Henry Cook was appointed by the Governor to fill out the term.

In the mud and slush of a rainy December evening in 1900, Thursday, December 13th, being the date, a number of citizens met at the Court House for the purpose of building another cotton mill for Talladega. Over one-fifth of the capital stock was subscribed for at this meeting by Messrs. H. L. McElderry, Cecil Browne, F. C. McAlpine, W. L. Miller, John H. Hicks, J. W. Cowen, R. W. Henderson, J. E. Michael, R. Heine, J. E. Camp and G. A. Mattison. The local paper says "the colored element of our town have caught the spirit of industrial progress, and Savannah Cruikshank (colored) not only took two shares but tendered his services to work among the negroes, in the interest of the mill, and suggested that John Goodgame, Sam Dickerson, Ben Walker and Andrew Pulliam be appointed to serve on a committee to wait on the colored people of the community." This committee was appointed. The mill is capitalized at fifty thousand dollars—it received the name of "Chinnabee." Capt. T. S. Plowman was the first president. This was the fifth cotton mill for Talladega county, all of them being built by home capital.

Mr. Eugene Zimmerman, president of the Northern Alabama Coal, Iron and Railway Company, resigned on July 15th, 1901. Mr. Walter T. Rosen of New York, was elected to the vacancy. Mr. Zimmerman did not dispose of his stock, but remained a director in the company. Captain John C. Soley was general manager at Talladega. The furnace had been idle several months when this action was taken.

The City Democratic Executive Committee, of Talladega, Mr. W. L. Miller, chairman, and John C. Williams, secretary, met on January 25, 1901, and called a city primary to be held on February 18th, 1901, to nominate candidates for mayor, aldermen and committeemen. Heretofore the nominations had been made by a "convention" or mass meeting of the voters. The contest for mayor was between Hon. Hugh L. Mc-

Elderry and Wellington Vandiver. The vote was Vandiver 179, McElderry 169. Aldermen, 1st ward, W. D. Link 75, G. A. Mattison 229, W. L. Miller 114, L. J. Wright 254. Aldermen 2nd ward, E. P. Cason 108, J. H. Hicks 120, J. E. Michael 195, T. P. Montgomery 35, B. B. Simms 197. Aldermen 3rd ward, Jno. M. Jones 143, Z. Katzenstein 169, W. F. Slaughter 182, Jno. C. Williams 150. Aldermen, 4th ward, R. Heine 167, F. P. McConnell 233, A. G. Storey 91, D. R. Van Pelt 143.

The final consummation of the negotiations between the city and the owners of the water works for the sale of the plant is noted in the local papers as occurring on Tuesday, February 27th, 1901. The actual price paid was \$45,000, to which was added \$701.43 for new material on hand.

The city issued and sold through its attorneys, Dryer and Webb, fifty thousand dollars of 30 year gold bonds, bearing interest at 5½ per cent. Messrs. W. H. Boynton, W. F. Slaughter and Dr. E. B. Wren were elected members of the Light & Water Commission for six, four and two years, respectively. W. J. Hayes & Son, of Columbus, O., and New York, were the purchasers of the bonds. Mr. J. E. Montgomery was elected superintendent.

Delegates to a constitutional convention were selected by a county convention on March 14th, 1901. The names of Cecil Browne, M. H. Hansard, E. W. Ledbetter and S. S. Mcpherson were put in nomination before the county convention. Messrs. Browne and Ledbetter were nominated. Mr. Joseph B. Graham was selected as the delegate to the constitutional convention from the Eighth Senatorial District.

The memorial exercises of Friday, April 26th, 1901, was notable from the fact that "Crosses of Honor" were first presented to the Confederate veterans. Sixty or more of the boys who wore the gray were present in the Chautauqua building to receive the cross. Judge Miller delivered the badges of honor, and as each veteran's name was called it was followed by applause. Forty or more crosses were not delivered, as the persons being entitled to them were not present.

The fairy story of a block of Alabama marble sent by the Governor of the state, being rejected by the engineers who erected the Washington, D. C., monument was again started on its rounds in 1901. The reason for the marble being rejected is told by the coiner of the myth, and those who repeat it, as being that the engineers said no more pure mar-

ble was obtainable in America, and that the block in question was Italian marble.

The minutes of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Alabama dated December 6th, 1849, show that a committee of three were appointed to procure and forward to the building committee of the Washington Monumental Society a block of Alabama marble four feet long, and two feet high upon which the following inscription should be made, "Alabama Marble, presented by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama to the National Monument Society." December 2nd, 1851, the committee appointed reported to the Grand Lodge that they had procured from the quarries in Talladega county now owned by Brother Edward Gantt, a block of pure, white marble of the dimensions required. Elisha Whittlesby, general agent of the Washington Monument Society, writing under the date of November 6th, 1851, acknowledges that the block of marble was received from the deck of the vessel *Ellen Goldsborough*, in Baltimore, and forwarded by rail to Washington and would be placed in the monument. These records are easy to be found in the records of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, F. A. M., and it explodes this pleasant but untrue myth, especially as the block with the inscription quoted is a part of the monument today.

During the autumn of 1901 the political matter most agitating the minds of the people was the discussion of the adoption of the new constitution. There was a joint debate in the Court House at Talladega October 30th, 1901, between Colonel W. H. Denson and Hon. J. B. Graham on this subject. Speakers who canvassed the county in favor of the ratification were J. B. Graham, Cecil Browne, E. W. Ledbetter, C. C. Whitson, A. M. Garber, E. H. Dryer, J. W. Heacock, B. H. Burr, J. F. Webb, W. B. Castleberry, A. M. Sims, Wellington Vandiver, H. L. McElderry, J. K. Dixon, J. H. Donahoo and W. C. McMillan. Precincts No. 3, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 17 voted against the ratification by decided majorities, but ratification was carried in Talladega county by a majority of thirteen hundred and thirty-four. Mr. Richard Heine was chairman of the campaign committee. Thirty-two counties in the state were returned as having given majorities amounting to 46,692 in favor of ratification, and thirty-two counties went against the ratification by majorities reported as 16,806.

The *Mountain Home*, of January 15th, 1902, publishes Mayor Vandiver's Annual Report to the city council, the first paragraph of

which sets forth the municipal progress of the proceeding year, as follows:

"Since April 1, 1901, we have built a two story brick fire house for the fire department, established a fire alarm system, installed a heating system for the public school, added a new teacher to the faculty of the school, established a market house, purchased a sprinkler for the streets and placed nearly \$2700 worth of labor and material upon the streets of the city. We have collected \$14,076. We have spent \$17,187. We owe \$3,000. We have on hand \$1,458. We need better lights. There is no city of this size in Alabama as poorly lighted. I recommend that a franchise be granted to persons to establish an electric light plant for this city."

The Alabama Live Stock Association held its annual session in Talladega on January 15th, 1902. Dr. C. A. Carey, of Auburn, presided. The address of welcome was made by the mayor, the annual address by President Carey. Among the prominent visitors present were Hon. R. R. Poole, Commissioner of Agriculture, Montgomery, Ala., I. C. Wade, of Atlanta, J. F. Duggar, of Auburn, J. R. Storrs, editor of the *Stockman*, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

The first street fair that Talladega ever experienced took place during the week of April, 1902, under the auspices of the Talladega Fire Department. The booths and tents were placed upon the public square and on Battle Street. The free attractions were: Dana Thompson, high diver, Prof. LeRoy, balloonist, Signor Scott, slack wire artist. The pay attractions were, The Electric War Show, Tannars Pony and Donkey Show, Snake Eater, Vaudeville Show, Congress of Novelties, Statue Turning to Life, Merry-go-round, Old Plantation, Flying Lady Burke's Nondescript.

The fire department realized over two hundred dollars as its per cent of the receipts. The shows were clean and orderly, and the people turned out in immense crowds. Saturday evening a gasoline lamp exploded in the Merry-go-round and burned the tails off half the horses. One of the attractions endeavored to work off a fake show by constructing a booth, and wallowing in the straw, hideously made up, under the title of a "Hoot Man." He would emit blood curdling yeowls, and strange guttural sounds, while the open mouthed yokels looked on in wonder. G. A. Mattison paid his money to see this attraction and plentifully

sprinkled the straw about the "Hoot Man" with a pound of red, or Cayenne, pepper. In about three minutes the "Hoot Man" had something to hoot about sure enough and the expeditious way in which he climbed out of that straw and made for water looked as if he was exceeding the speed limit. Nothing more was heard of the "Hoot Man" show. While the people enjoyed the show yet the business men of the city complained that it paralyzed trade.

The city council on Monday, June 9th, 1902, granted a franchise to "The Talladega Company" to operate a traction line, electric light and power transmission, etc., for thirty years through the street, on condition that the company utilize the power at Jackson Shoals, but the city did not agree to take any electric lights believing that it "would be harmful to the gas plant in a financial way." The promoters of the Talladega company resided in Philadelphia.

Under date of June 18th, 1902, the Mountain Home says "The Drouth. And still the drouth continues. For a matter of more than two months there has not been a general season of moisture in the county. Heavy showers of rain have fallen in some neighborhoods, but no general season, and crops in such localities have not been benefitted as they would have been by a general rain. In the absence of rain we have heat and dust. Last Sunday the thermometer marked 100 degrees in the shade."

The Fourth of July, 1902, was celebrated in Talladega by the contests of the Second Battalion of the Third Regiment of the Alabama National Guard, composed of the companies of Gadsden, Anniston, Oxford, and Talladega. Adjutant General Brandon, Major Daniels and Captain Gardner were the judges of the company drill. The competing companies were Capt. Shellnut's Anniston Rifles, Capt. Smith's Oxford Company and Capt. Burr's Talladega Company, the Gadsden Company although present did not drill, on account of some real or fancied slight. The Talladega Rifles won the company drill. The individual drill was won by Sergt. Hazard of Co. I. Col. Jas. L. Tanner, of Birmingham, presented the medal to Seargt. Hazard, which was received by the companies sponsors, Misses Alice Bullard and Carrie Draper, of Oxford. Capt. Jno. C. Soley, late of the U. S. Navy and manager of the furnace, presented the flag to the winning Talladega Rifles, received by the sponsors Misses Maude Chambers and Annabel Vandiver.

Early in July, 1902, the contracts were let for the construction of the

Eastern Railway, running from Talladega to Pyriton. President Percy H. Smith let the first ten miles to the Donaldson Construction Company of Birmingham. The second ten miles was contracted to T. B. Redmond & Co. The road covered a distance of twenty-four miles, and was intended to develop the Pyrites mines. The L. & N. railroad was reported to be back of the enterprise at least to the extent of furnishing the money.

The county Democratic Executive Committee, Chairman, J. E. Camp, presiding, meeting July 19th, 1902, ordered the first primary for county officers that had ever enjoyed. Previously to this the convention plan had been in vogue, but the people gradually became dissatisfied with the convention system. August 25th was the day selected for the voting under the primary. At this date there were three thousand and sixty-three registered voters in the county, sixty-nine of these being negroes. Hon. S. J. Bowie announced for congress. W. B. Castleberry and J. C. Wilson were candidates for the state senate. Messrs. J. C. Lanier, G. A. Joiner, John J. Hunter and George A. Hill, offered for representatives. For commissioners there were the names of A. R. Stroud, R. E. Cook and A. F. Jones. M. H. Hansard and J. A. Harris were also candidates from the first district for the place of county commissioners. Col. A. M. Garber offered for the place of attorney general of the state. Governor William D. Jelks and Jos. H. Johnston were the competing candidates for governor. Governor Jelks carried Talladega county by over 500 majority. Mr. Bowie was without opposition. W. B. Castleberry won over Mr. J. C. Wilson by 33 votes, the figures being Castleberry 844, Wilson 811. J. C. Lanier was nominated by a good majority. Mr. G. A. Joiner and G. A. Hill had to run the race over to determine who had second place for representative. Messrs. J. A. Harris and A. F. Jones were nominated for commissioners.

The city council, under the direction of Dr. B. B. Sims used oil in damp places, and on standing water for the purpose of killing the mosquitoes. Everywhere that it was possible for the pest to breed was placed crude oil, and as a consequence, during the summer of 1902, for the first time since the establishment of the water works, Talladega was free from mosquitoes. The cost to the city was comparatively trifling.

CHAPTER XLIII.

In the first primary one member for the legislature had been nominated, this honor going to Mr. J. C. Lanier, but Messrs. G. A. Joiner and G. A. Hill who were candidates for membership in the General Assembly

not having received a sufficient vote to nominate, it became necessary to run the race over. The vote for Mr. Joiner in this second race was 783, and that for Dr. G. A. Hill was 573.

The Republicans of the County held their convention in the court house at Talladega on Saturday, Aug. 30th, 1902, and selected delegates to the State and District Conventions as follows: H. L. McElderry, J. A. Edwards, Percy H. Smith, Geo. W. Parsons, W. M. Thweatt, W. T. Stewart, J. W. King, L. D. Hammett, F. F. Newman, P. S. Puckett, Sr., Jas. L. Spears, A. O. Campbell, E. A. Hodge, Graves Embry, J. A. Bingham and J. F. Warwick.

An executive committee, and also a central committee composed of H. L. McElderry, T. J. Wilson and J. A. Bingham, was selected. On September 21st the Republican County Executive Committee put out the following county ticket: For State Senator, Graves Embry, of Sylacauga; for the Legislature, W. F. Burk, of Sycamore, and T. V. Knight, of Sylacauga; for Commissioner, first District, J. D. Mattison (who afterward declined); second District J. J. Gambrell. At the election following the Democratic ticket won by a good majority. Messrs. G. W. Clements, of Lincoln, and A. O. Campbell of Fayetteville were put on the ticket for Commissioners, Messrs. Mattison and Gambrell having resigned.

The cotton receipts in the Talladega warehouses this year were one thousand bales in excess of the previous one, being 13,870. The price averaged eight cents. Estimating the bales at a normal weight of 500 pounds, this crop would aggregate to the farmers of Talladega county \$554,800.00. With the receipts at other points of the county added, it is safe to estimate the value of the Talladega County cotton crop for this year at one million dollars.

The city council modified the franchise granted the "Talladega Co." at its meeting on Monday 12th, 1902, when Col. McFerrin, of Pittsburg, and Hon. H. L. McElderry, appeared before the body and argued the matter. McFerrin stated that the Talladega Company had been unable to secure the Gas bonds, and that the water power at the shoals was not as large as had been anticipated, and his company wanted a franchise to use the streets, etc., for electricity, generating it with steam, until the water power at the shoals could be utilized. This was granted, after debate on both sides, the vote being seven ayes and one nay.

A boiler exploded Monday morning October 27th at the Bingham

Ginnery on Battle and West Streets, injuring seven people. The Talladega Mercantile Co. was operating the ginnery at the time. George Barclay the negro engineer ran cold water into a hot boiler, so rumor said, but George denied this, saying he already had too much water. The gin building was almost demolished, as was the office of the Talladega Oil Mill. The boiler head and flues were blown 50 yards. The whole town was shaken by the explosion.

The school attendance for 1902 is here given as a matter of comparison. Number of pupils attending Miss Emma Howard's preparatory school 22. Number of pupils attending Miss Price's home school 37. Isbell College 65. Orphans Home 65. Alabama School for the Deaf 146. Alabama School for the Blind 76. School for the Negro Deaf and Blind, 45. City Schools, white, 267. City Schools, colored, 52. Talladega College, colored, 450. Total 1,255.

This statement is from Jno. C. Williams, the County School Superintendent, made in the Mountain Home of October 29th, 1902.

In November 1902, the street gas lights were turned off by the Superintendent with no notice to the Mayor and Alderman, although private consumers were still furnished with gas light. A commission controlled the gas and water free from interference, or control by the Mayor and Alderman. Upon complaint by the Mayor there was no promise on the part of the Superintendent or the Commission to again light the street gas lamps, although the city was supposed to be the owner of the plant, and to run it for the purpose among others, of furnishing street lights. No electric lights had been installed, and for weeks the streets of Talladega were in darkness. By resolution of the city council on Monday, December 1st, 1902, the Mayor was authorized to investigate as to the failure of lights to be furnished the city, and in case the Commission further failed to furnish the lights, the Mayor was authorized to investigate as to getting lights from other sources, etc., The Mayor promptly investigated the matter, and as there was no probability of the Commission lighting the city with its gas lights, the Mayor agreed with Mr. Geo. W. Chambers, who represented the Talladega Company, to take ten electric arc lights, at once. Mr. Chambers wired for men, and material, and by January 1st, 1903, there were arc lights burning on our streets lighted by electricity. The reason given by Mr. J. E. Montgomery, the Superintendent of the Gas Light and Water Plant, appointed by the Light and Water Commission, why the Commission did not furnish lights for the

street lamps of the city was that the gas plant was not making a sufficient quantity of gas to furnish the private consumers.

At the city council meeting on January 4th, Mayor Vandiver reported his action to the Board, and recommended that the city discontinue the use of gas for street lighting, and take twenty electric arc lights from the Talladega Company at \$65 per annum per arc light, which report was adopted, and the recommendation accepted, and adopted. The location of the lights to be designated by the Aldermen of each ward. The first arc lights were placed upon the four corners of the public square.

Following are the comments of the Mountain Home on the municipal election of 1903: "In a downpour of rain the City Democratic Primary was conducted yesterday, (February 3rd, 1903.) The largest vote ever cast was polled—369—only 19 less than the entire voting strength. Ward one voted its entire strength, 116. The election was one that no man dared to forecast the results, and several surprises were sprung on the completion of the count.

Wellington Vandiver was overwhelmingly re-nominated Mayor over D. R. VanPelt. J. K. Dixon received the unanimous vote for Committeeman from the city at large. The two Aldermen receiving the highest number of votes from each ward (the wards voted separately) are the nominees. The following statement shows the results.

Ward One—Mayor, Vandiver, 102; VanPelt, 14; Alderman, Fleetwood, 43; Savery 36; West 72; Wright 67:

Ward Two—Mayor, Vandiver, 48; VanPelt 11; Alderman, Hubbard, 20; Michael 36, McAlpine 42.

Ward Three—Mayor, Vandiver 64; VanPelt, 27; Alderman, Burr, 81, Katzenstein 67; McCary 31.

Ward Four—Mayor, Vandiver, 63; VanPelt 34; Alderman, Lightcap, 48; McConnell 31, Adams 37, Bishop 65.

A dispensary bill passed both Houses on February 11th, 1903, ordering an election for or against a dispensary to be held on August 4th, 1903. Among the provisions of the bill was a clause that the dispenser should sell not less than one pint. That there should be paid out of the

proceeds of the Dispensary a sum equal to all the state license paid by all the saloons during 1903, and the net sum for operating and conducting the dispensary, and after this there should be paid thirty per cent of the proceeds to the county, and the remainder to the city. In the August election there were 1617 votes cast. 699 men voted for the dispensary, while 918 voted against it—a difference of two hundred and nineteen votes against the dispensary. There were 3256 registered votes in the county and, it will be seen that only about one half of the people voted on the question. The country beats voted against it, while the precincts containing towns, i.e., Talladega, Childersburg, Lincoln, Ironaton and Childersburg 860 votes—giving a majority of 34 for the dispensary.

The Medical Association of Alabama met in its 58th Annual Session at Chambers Opera House Tuesday, April 21st, 1903. Dr. Glenn Andrews, of Montgomery, presided. In behalf of the County Medical Society, its President, Dr. A. G. Sims, welcomed the State Association in a most cordial and happy vein. Following President Sims, Mayor Wellington Vandiver, extended a welcome on behalf of the city of Talladega. The annual reports of the Senior Vice President, Dr. M. B. Cameron, of Sumter, and the Junior Vice President, Dr. G. P. Waller, of Jasper were read. The report of the Secretary showed that 1,225 doctors in Alabama were members of the State Medical Association, while 773 did not belong. Dr. G. H. Price, of Nashville, and Michael Hoke, of Atlanta, and G. E. Petty, of Memphis, were introduced to the Association, and extended the privilege of the floor. About three hundred doctors attended. A banquet at the Chautauqua, and a smoker at the Elks was enjoyed by the M.D.s Dr. S. W. Welch, of Talladega, was elected on the Board of Censors.

The crossing of the Louisville & Nashville with the Savannah & Memphis road at Sylacauga made that town a flourishing young city of the county. Originally Cleveland's store—a stage stand—afterward a good stand for a few stores—then growing into prominence as a fine place for schools, surrounded by a splendid agriculture region, Sylacauga grew steadily as a commercial point as far back as 1890, the place had many of the marks of a growing town. Locating a District Agricultural School at this point was of immense advantage to it. Manufacturies, and mills began to be located there and the town prospered, being moved from its former location on the hill, down nearer the railroads to more level places. In April 1903 the municipal officers nominated for Sylacauga, were for Mayor, T. P. Johnson, for Alderman Dr. M. E. Conaway, R.

W. Prather, E. A. Hammett, R. L. Edwards, Dr. F. P. Craddock, E. S. Smith, J. W. Brown, J. J. Hightower, Jr. The city of Sylacauga this year let the contracts for a system of water works, and sewerage, and assumed all the indications of a thriving city.

The editorial comment in the *Mountain Home*, of Talladega, of May 6th, 1903, on the message of the Mayor to the Board of Aldermen is as follows:

"Mayor Vandiver presented his message to the body. In the future, he said, he favored that parties asking for franchises be required to pay for them. The Mayor thinks we can do better in the future by taking one street at a time, and working it until permanent results are obtained. He wants the streets named, and houses numbered. The Insurance reduction by reason of a more efficient fire department, amounts to a saving of four or five thousand dollars a year to our citizens. During the year the fines have amounted to \$3,000,000. The receipts of the city have been \$27,920.42. The Mayor recommends that the Mayor and Aldermen take charge of the city schools.

For two years and five months the Water & Light Commission have made no report to the Mayor and Aldermen. The Commission is responsible to no one and the Mayor recommends a change in the law so that the Creature shall not have more power than the Creator. An examination of the Commission's books is recommended so that the city may know how its property is being conducted."

June 14th, 1903, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen proceeded to elect teachers for the city schools. Jno. D. McNeel was elected by one vote, as Superintendent. Mr. Jno. D. McNeel came highly recommended as a teacher, coming here after having taught out a term at Trussville, Alabama. Mr. T. C. Moore was elected principal. Other teachers named were Miss Scottie McKenzie, Mrs. Kate W. Finnegan, Miss Nettie Stringer, Miss Kate McAlpine, Miss Leila Huey, Miss Hallie Henderson, and Miss Minnie Miller, Music teacher, Miss Susie Bishop.

Mr. Howard Griggs, the former Superintendent, whom Prof. McNeel, of Trussville, succeeded, was in July following, elected Superintendent of the Dothan Schools.

A terrible accident occurred at the passenger depot of the Southern Railway in Talladega, on Monday evening, July 6th, 1903, by which

Hon. J. B. Graham and Miss Jeanette Joiner were killed. A passenger train crashed into some freight cars throwing the freight cars against Miss Joiner and Mr. Graham, who had started across the track on the open crossing, and killed both.

The death of Mr. Graham caused a vacancy in the office of Solicitor of the Seventh Judicial Circuit, which Governor Jelks filled by the appointment of the law partner of Mr. Graham, Hon. C. C. Whitson, of Talladega, on July 12th, 1903.

On Monday, September fourteenth, Mr. Jas. A. Huey, who had been Clerk of the Circuit Court for 27 years resigned, therefore Judge Miller of the City Court appointed Mr. M. H. Sims, a prominent young lawyer, as clerk of the City Court, who was also appointed clerk of the Circuit Court.

Mr. Jno. C. Williams was re-appointed County Superintendent of Education by State Superintendent I. W. Hill, of Montgomery, on Wednesday, September 2nd, 1903.

October 9th, 1903 the Mayor purchased of J. H. Johnson a lot on the South side of the city in the Moorefield addition for the purpose, later, of erecting an additional City School. On the same date contracts were made with A. O. Harwell, the contractor, for the addition of a brick wing to the Northside City School—the addition consisted of a Superintendent's office, and a room for the tenth grade, the whole cost of the improvement to the Northside school was to be approximately \$1,000.00. In December 1903, Mrs. L. A. Jemison agreed to take \$10,000.00 of the school bonds of the city at six per cent.—and this money was to be used for the purpose of paying for the land and building of the Southside City School.

The price of cotton in Talladega December 30th, 1903 was thirteen cents per pound. Corn per bushel, fifty-five cents. Feed oats, per bushel fifty-five cents. Baled hay per ton ten dollars. Meal, per bushel sixty cents. Fodder, per hundred bundles, \$1.25. Cotton seed, per bushel eighteen and one-half cents. Eggs per dozen, thirty-five cents. Butter fifteen to twenty-five cents per pound.

The Primary elections were ordered early in 1904—April 11 being the time fixed, in which we were to elect all state and county officers. Mr. J. F. Reynolds, as chairman of the county executive committee left

the state. Hon. T. S. Plowman was elected chairman of the committee. Mr. George T. McElderry was endorsed by the committee for the place of President of the Railroad Commission of Alabama.

The candidates whose announcements appeared in the January local papers, were Hon. J. E. Camp, for Probate Judge; Geo. T. McElderry, for R. R. Commissioner; D. M. Mallory for Tax Assessor; Marion H. Sims, for Circuit Clerk; A. M. Garber, for County Solicitor; J. A. Woodward, for Tax Assessor; R. B. Burns, of Lincoln, for Tax Assessor; S. H. Henderson, for Treasurer; and T. F. Elliott for Commissioner, and William Taylor for Commissioner.

In January of this year, Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave fifteen thousand dollars to the Talladega College, colored, for the purpose of building a library. The school had already accumulated a library of 7,500 volumes. Within a few years the library building was begun, located within the college grounds on a beautiful eminence on the North side of Battle St., West, but within the city limits, as the incorporation lines then ran. Rev. Benjamin Nyce, of Lockport, New York, accepted the Presidency of this college in January.

The growth of the city caused a demand for a free city mail delivery, and the News-Reporter of March 19, 1904, notes the first steps taken to secure this in the following item:

"Will number the houses. After an extended correspondence, and a good deal of hard work, Mayor Wellington Vandiver has at last perfected arrangements by which the streets of the city will be labelled, and the houses numbered. Of course it is understood that the property owners, in case of private property, will pay for the number, and plate on his own house. This is a step toward the free delivery, and an indication of continued growth.

Additional Candidates entered the race for the April Primary as follows: For Tax Collector, W. A. Glover; Assessor, B. F. Cliett; Commissioner 4th District, W. B. Campbell; T. A. Ogletree. Delegates to State Convention, J. W. Oden, J. H. Wilson, P. S. Williams, Cecil Browne, G. A. Joiner, C. C. Whitson, J. K. Dixon, W. B. Castleberry, G. T. McElderry, W. I. Phillips, Geo. A. Hill, J. M. Rowe, H. A. Stewart, J. G. Savery. For Judge 7th Circuit, John Pelham. For Solicitor 7th Circuit, Borden H. Burr.

CHAPTER XLIV.

The last wooden store on the north side of the square was burned at three o'clock Sunday morning, January 24, 1904. The double stores were occupied at the time by Adams & Frazer, and H. W. Towers, the former merchants had five thousand five hundred dollars insurance on the stock, the latter was insured for three thousand dollars. The building belonged to J. M. Thornton and Mrs. Mary Blake. These two stores were old landmarks, being at the time the oldest buildings on the public square. Within a year a handsome brick, two story building occupied the space.

At the close of 1903 the board of trustees of the Synodical College, (formerly Isbell College) elected Rev. T. Peyton Walton, recently of the Synodical College of Missouri, president of the College, succeeding Rev. F. B. Webb, and on February 21, 1904, Rev. F. B. Webb was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Talladega. The church committee purchased a handsome John Brown organ for \$2,550 in March, 1904.

For many years the white marble in the lower end of the county had been worked in a small way. As far back as 1840 marble was quarried at Heard's and Gantt's quarry, and as has been shown in this volume a block of pure white marble was sent by the Masons of Alabama to Washington, and was placed in the Washington monument. It was not, however, until about 1895 that any money of consequence was put into the business, or any extended effort made to make it of commercial importance. During 1904 the large capital hitherto invested in the Gantt quarry began to become of commercial importance and the output of the quarry, as developed, and handled, by the Alabama Marble Company and the Alabama White Marble Company attracted the attention of the world.

This marble has proven to be the finest and purest grained white marble in America. There is plenty of it for all art purposes, equal to any in Italy. Many houses were finished in this pure white marble during this year. It is one of the natural resources of the county that will be developed as needed.

The planters Chemical Company, capital stock \$100,000 was incorporated the first week in April, 1904, with R. W. Henderson, president, G. A. Mattison, J. H. Hicks, J. C. Lanier stockholders. High grade phosphate was to be the output of the plant as well as ammoniated guano.

The location was on the W. R. Stone place southwest of the city, on the L. & N. railroad, near the old Isbell mill.

The result of the Democratic county primary for 1904 was as follows. Those without opposition were, J. E. Camp for probate judge, Marion H. Sims for circuit clerk, A. M. Garber solicitor city court, S. H. Henderson treasurer and R. Heine for coroner. For tax collector the vote stood, Glover 436, Woodward 1094. For tax assessor, Cliett 179, Mallory 1014, Cook 335. Messrs. Elliott and Campbell were nominated for county commissioners. For president of the railroad commission B. B. Comer received 1121 votes as against 280 for Smith and 81 for Kolb. Hon. Jno. Pelham for Judge of the Circuit, Borden H. Burr solicitor of the circuit court, and S. J. Bowie for Congress received over 1300 votes, respectively.

The mayor's annual message delivered April 26, 1904, showed the receipts of money from all sources to be \$37,209.20. The expenditures for the year aggregated \$20,528.44, leaving a balance on hand in bank of \$7,721.89. In discussing the police force in the message the mayor says: "The salary of the members of the police force amounts to \$200 per month, and they are on duty 12 hours at a time. During the past three years the fines assessed by the mayor have overpaid the salaries of the police force."

Continuing the message says: "During the year past postoffice receipts have increased over one thousand dollars. Tax values have risen over fifty thousand dollars, the merchants have sold fifty-four thousand dollars more goods than last year, crime has decreased, the law has been rigidly enforced, churches and schools have increased, the revenues of the city have been wisely and well handled for all these things combine to make Talladega an ideal city for the emigrant and homeseeker."

A forward step for education was taken by Talladega county on May 11, 1904, when the commissioners' court, upon the petition of over 200 tax payers, ordered an election to give the people of the county an opportunity of voting on the question of levying an additional tax of ten cents on the hundred dollars for educational purposes, and setting the election for June 13. The money collected from this special tax could be used only for paying teachers salaries. The vote of the people of the county on this tax was 728 for taxation, 182 against taxation. Talladega county thus had the honor of being the first in the state to hold an election for local taxation for schools.

The building of the Georgia Pacific division of the Southern railroad from Atlanta to Birmingham, through Lincoln, in this county, converted a hamlet into a thriving town. It is 14 miles from Talladega, the county seat, located in the lovely valley of Blue Eye Creek, Indian name of the Creek was Alka-chusca, meaning Blue Eye, because of the fact that a Muscogee Indian who had a pair of blue eyes lived on this stream and was sub-chief of the Creek tribe.

In 1904 Lincoln boasted of a number of pretty homes, a Methodist church with Rev. C. D. Brooks, pastor; a Baptist church, with Rev. F. G. Mullen pastor; with Sunday schools, Ladies Aid societies, and Epworth Leagues. One good school under Prof. W. C. Watson, a Masonic lodge, Knights of Pythias lodge and I. O. O. F. Seven good mercantile establishments were located in Lincoln, to-wit: J. C. Wilson & Sons, Law & Davis, R. B. Burns, W. A. Kirksey, S. F. Glossen, J. A. Shaddix, and W. B. Montgomery. Probably at this time the firm of J. C. Wilson & Sons were among the largest supply merchants in the county. Doctors Colvin, Castleberry and Brooks were the physicians.

The Mountain Home of September 14, 1904, contains a petition and complaint filed by Mayor Wellington Vandiver, before the Alabama Railroad Commission, against the Louisville & Nashville railroad, asking the removal of the passenger depot of that road and the erection of a building adequate for the comfort of passengers. The petitions states that in 1884 the L. & N. railroad had erected a single story two room structure, in a low marshy muddy place in the city, and that as the years wore on the building had become too small for the traffic, and was rotten, the ventilation was lacking, the walls were dirty and rotten, the waiting rooms could not be heated, and were unsanitary, and the rooms were foul filthy, narrow, dark, stifling, full of noisome stench, and so unsanitary and forbidding that passengers stayed out in the cold and rain, rather than endure the stench and discomfort of the waiting rooms, etc. The railroad postponed a hearing before the commission from time to time, until there had been five continuances on the part of the railroad, and finally the railroad authorities agreed in writing with Mayor Vandiver that if the suit was withdrawn the railroad would erect a modern, and handsome station house for passengers. This was agreed to, and two years later the present beautiful passenger depot of the Louisville & Nashville railroad was begun.

The new school building on the south side of the city was occupied

for the first time in September, 1904. Mrs. Kate W. Finnegan was principal, with whom were Misses Kate McAlpine and Maud Dixon, as teachers. Architect H. D. Breeding, who planned the building, published a card on June 29, 1904, stating that he had carefully inspected the building, that he had erected duplicates in every particular of this building in the cities of Birmingham, Dothan, and Attalla, and at fifteen other points in Alabama, the oldest of them to-wit, the one at Gurley, Ala., having stood for 17 years, and that the present Talladega school building was as good, or better, than the best of them, and that the accidents to the building were due to carelessness. The building was built to seat 360 children comfortably.

The association of police chiefs of Alabama met in Talladega in the Fourth Annual session on September 20, 1904, Chief N. Lewis, of Talladega, being the host of the association. Among the speakers the first day were Chief Weir and Ex-chief Austin, of Birmingham, and Chief A. McGill, of Tuscaloosa. Mayor Vandiver and the board of aldermen were elected honorary members of the association. A paper from Chief Wyley Williams, of Columbus, Ga., on "Four Barriers to Crime" was read. The citizens of Talladega complimented the chiefs with a banquet at the city hall, and on the next day a barbecue at Renfro, where Policeman John W. Thweatt, of Talladega, won the gold medal for the best pistol shot. The officers of the association elected for the next term were: President, A. McGill, Tuscaloosa; 1st vice president, W. E. Weir, Birmingham; second vice president, T. B. Wallace, Bessemer, secretary and treasurer, C. F. Camp Ensley.

Sunday, November 13, following the meeting of the police chiefs, the chief of police of Talladega, Nathaniel Lewis, died. He was a member of the Talladega police force for twelve years. Magnanimous, brave and modest, the city lost a good man and faithful officer when he left us. Robert Hood was elected to succeed him.

After eleven years, the North Alabama Conference of the Methodist church again met in Talladega on November 23, 1904, there being over 350 people in attendance, including laymen, Bishop A. W. Wilson, of Baltimore, presiding. Rev. T. M. Calloway, pastor of the First Baptist church of Talladega, reported the proceedings of the conference for the Mountain Home. The history of the Talladega Methodists reaches back to 1833, when the Rev. Jessee Ellis preached in a log church situated not far from Isbell's Spring. The first quarterly conference ever held on the

eastern side of Coosa river was located at Bethel meeting house, four miles north of the Battle Ground, May 25, 1833, and was presided over by Rev. R. G. Christopher, the presiding elder of the Coosa district. The first Methodist church erected in Talladega was built on lot 113 in the city.

William Garrett, who wrote "Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama" was one of the stewards elected at the first quarterly conference held for Talladega Mission. In chronological order the preachers who served the Talladega church are Jessee Ellis 1833, William C. Crawford 1834, assisted by Leonard Tarrant, Dr. Sevier, local preachers. Daniel B. Marlow, 1835. Edward H. Hoore and Benj. L. West 1836. Wiley W. Thomas, 1837. William Moore 1839. Theophilus Moody 1840. Jessee Ellis 1841. Edward J. Mammill, 1842. Theophilus Moody 1843. Varnum L. Hopkins 1844. Lewis G. Hicks 1845 to 1865. O. R. Blue, T. H. P. Scales, E. J. Hammill, Joseph Phelan, J. W. Starr, D. Carmichael, J. C. McDaniel, J. S. Moore, B. B. Ross, T. P. Crymes, James S. Lane, T. F. Mangum, C. W. Miller, T. J. Couch, R. B. Crawford. 1866, R. B. Crawford. 1867, W. R. Kirk, 1868 F. T. J. Brandon. 1869, C. A. King. 1870 to 1871, Anson West. 1872, Daniel Duncan. 1872-1874, C. D. Oliver. 1874-1876, Jno. H. Anderson. 1876-1879, J. M. Boland. 1880-1882, C. C. Ellis. 1883, W. C. Hearn. 1884, Jno. B. Gregory. 1885-86, W. C. Heran, Z. A. Parker. 1886-1889, W. E. Mabry. 1889-1893, W. T. Andrews, 1893-1896, Joel F. Sturdivant, 1897, A. B. Jones. 1897-1900, V. O. Hawkins. 1900-1904, J. W. Newman. The number of Methodists in the North Alabama conference was about 75,000. The appointments made by this conference in this district were J. W. Johnson, presiding elder, L. C. Branscomb, at Talladega Station, Anniston, J. D. Ellis. Oxford, T. K. Roberts. Sylacauga, A. J. Notestine. Munford, J. W. Carey. Lincoln, J. Warren. Childersburg, J. R. Chadwick. Plantersville, J. M. Igon.

In the issue of October 19, 1904, Mr. J. E. Stone announced his candidacy for mayor of Talladega. On November 9th Mr. Wellington Vandiver published a card announcing his candidacy for re-election to the office. It was decided also, to hold a municipal primary for the place of Chief of Police, and in pursuance of this, Robert Hood, Z. W. Grogan, A. P. Waters and Jno. W. Thweatt, announced as candidates for that position. For alderman from the first ward, Messrs. L. J. Wright, W. L. Miller and W. H. Cobb were candidates. For the second ward F. C. McAlpine, J. M. Jackson. The third ward offered W. E. Dickinson, Dr. C. W. Lokey, C. W. Stringer and Jno. T. Adams, Sr. For the fourth

ward Dr. J. W. Heacock, W. R. Bishop and D. S. Lightcap. The primary was ordered for Monday, February 27th, 1905. The votes polled by the various candidates were as follows: For mayor Wellington Vandiver 188, J. E. Stone 163. For chief of police, Robert Hood 294, Z. W. Grogan 71, J. W. Thweatt 58, A. P. Waters 18. For alderman 1st ward W. H. Cobb 186, W. L. Miller 268, L. J. Wright 183. For aldermen second ward, Jackson 312, McAlpine 303. For alderman third ward J. T. Adams 121, W. E. Dickinson 203, C. W. Lokey 174, C. W. Stringer 147.

The newspapers of 1904 contained sundry notices of the proposed building of a railroad from Brunswick to Birmingham, and a survey was made through this county, but the names of the projectors of the road was kept under cover. Probably the first steps taken to induce the road to come by Talladega is shown by a letter published by the Mountain Home February 1st, 1905, from the general manager of the road, as follows: "Waycross, Ga., January 27, 1905. Hon. Wellington Vandiver, mayor of the city of Talladega, Alabama. Dear Sir: I have your favor of January 19th enclosing clipping from the Birmingham daily relative to the extension of the road from Montezuma to Birmingham, and in reply beg to say that I expect pursuant to your invitation to be in Talladega at an early date for the purpose of taking up with you and the citizens of your city the matter of this extension through Talladega. Yours truly, Geo. Dole Wadley, V. P. and Gen. Manager."

In March the Commercial Association took up the matter and learning that Mr. Wadley had written in response to a letter of Mr. Jno. C. Williams, stating that if Talladega so desired he would come here and take the matter up when the association extended him an invitation through its president, G. A. Mattison, to come to Talladega and make his proposition. Matters wore along until August 1905 when there was another meeting of the Commercial & Industrial association on August 2 when the matter of taking steps to secure the right of way was discussed. Cecil Browne, Wellington Vandiver, C. C. Whitson and Dr. B. B. Sims discussed the various phases of the situation. Seven thousand dollars was subscribed within an hour to be used in purchasing a right of way. It was estimated that the right of way through the county would cost twenty thousand dollars. On August 30 George Dole Wadley, the vice president and general manager, Alex Bonnyman, chief engineer, and chief engineer of the field corps, Olney, visited Talladega. There was a rousing meeting of the citizens at the city hall presided over by Mayor Wellington Vandiver, the result of which was that the officials of

the road asked that Talladega donate the right of way, which the meeting promised to do by a rising vote. On motion of Dr. B. B. Sims, a committee composed of G. A. Mattison, J. E. Stone and T. S. Plowman was appointed to go over the line with the engineers and ascertain what rights of way could be secured and at what price. The committee reported on September 16 to a meeting in the court house that it found the committee lacked \$12,500 of having enough money to pay for the right of way through the city. The cost of the right of way through the city of Talladega was estimated at \$21,085. Mr. Bonnyman said the railroad would pay the difference, and he turned a check for that amount, that is, \$12,500. Cecil Browne, Esq., was then called upon to explain the contracts drawn up between the citizens and the road. He explained that if the road was not built in two and one-half years the property purchased by the right of way money reverts to those who had paid the subscriptions and that each subscriber is liable only for the amount of his subscription. G. A. Mattison, J. E. Stone and T. S. Plowman were made the authorized agents of the citizens to transact all business necessary, and each subscriber was asked to give his note for the amount of his subscription.

CHAPTER XLV

Childersburg, a pleasant village twenty miles west of the county seat, and within a mile of the ancient Indian town of Coosa, the capital of the aboriginal kingdom of Coosa, began to assume the dress and customs of a town during the decade covered by 1900-1910. A dispensary was established. Brick paving was in evidence, several blocks of well equipped stores supplied the farmers of the valley of the Coosa, Talladega and Tallasahatchie. A fine school was maintained and churches flourished. The selection of municipal officers began to be a matter for discussion and rivalry. In February, 1905 there were two tickets in the field as follows: For Mayor J. J. Elliott, for councilman, F. Moss, J. A. Nichols, G. R. Powell, J. W. Oden. The second ticket was as below: For Mayor M. J. Cliett; for councilmen, Thos. Smith, J. A. Nichols, A. O. Riser, Jacob Cosper. At the election on March 6th J. J. Elliott was elected by a vote of 26 to 13. Nine votes were contested, and thrown out in casting up the returns. The board of aldermen elected consisted of J. A. Nichols, J. W. Oden, J. R. Powell and Jacob Cosper.

The Commissioners Court took the first steps toward improving the court house on February 13, 1905. The original building was a three-story brick structure, erected in 1842, which, later on, was reduced to

a two-story brick building surmounted with a clock tower. The Commissioners Court appointed a committee to investigate the improvements necessary to the building, which committee was composed of Judge J. E. Camp, Commissioners A. F. Jones and J. T. Elliott. Judge G. K. Miller and Hon. Cecil Browne.

In May, 1905, the contract was awarded to R. S. West, over three other bidders, at the price of \$13,500. The steam heating was let separately and this went to the Michael Supply Co., for the sum of \$1,498. The work was to be completed by October 1st, 1905. Dirt was broken on April 3rd, 1905 for the Elks Home and Theatre. The first shovel full was handled by Rev. W. C. Hearn, Chaplain, of Talladega Lodge No. 603, B. P. O. E. The corner stone was donated by the Alabama White Marble Company of Gantt's Quarry. The building cost twenty thousand dollars. It was owned jointly by the Talladega Opera House Co., Incorporated and Talladega Lodge, No. 603, B. P. O. E. The Elks Theatre opened Tuesday, October 3rd, 1905, with Al. G. Fields Minstrels, the receipts being nearly one thousand dollars, in spite of the fact that rain fell almost all day. The building, scenery, etc., cost \$40,000. The incorporators were L. W. Clardy, president, W. H. Boynton, treasurer, J. E. Camp and B. H. Hurr, stockholders. The executive staff of the theatre consisted of Chas. C. Cooper, manager, W. H. Boynton, treasurer, W. W. Beason, stage manager, John W. Horan, master of properties, Woodie Hubbard, chief usher. The seating capacity was 1000. The stage was 17 x 60 feet. There were eight dressing rooms.

C. E. Riley, of Boston, Mass., purchased the Sycamore Cotton Mills in July, 1905. The Sycamore Mill was the first cotton mill built in Talladega county, erected about 1890 by D. L. and J. A. Lewis. Mr. C. S. Goodwin, of Anniston, took charge of the mills as the agent of Mr. Riley. Mr. C. S. Goodwin had been superintendent of the Anniston mills.

The Talladega Broom Works enlarged in August of this year. This manufactory had been turning out forty dozen brooms per day and two machines were added thereby increasing the capacity to sixty dozen daily. Two acres of land were sufficient to grow a ton of broom corn, which was worth from \$40 to \$120 per ton. Later on the broom factory was destroyed by fire, and for reasons unknown the making of brooms was abandoned. It was not in existence long enough to encourage any great number of farmers to raise broom corn for the market.

A union religious meeting participated in by all of the churches of

Talladega was begun on September 17th at the Chautauqua Auditorium, conducted by Rev. H. M. Wharton, of Germantown, Pa., a brother of Doctor M. B. Wharton, of Eufaula, Ala., a Virginian and a Baptist. Large crowds attended the services. Dr. Wharton led the singing, after organizing a chorus class. The revival continued two weeks, the attendance frequently reaching twenty-five hundred, the full capacity of the Chautauqua building. Sixty-five persons united with the various churches as a result of the meeting, distributed as follows, thirty joined the Presbyterian church, nine united with the Methodist congregation, twenty-two were added to the Baptist church, and four joined the second Baptist church.

The pure mountain air, the sparkling water, and the simplicity of existence in Talladega county has a tendency to cause people to be ready to obey the Scripture injunction to "increase and multiply and replenish the earth." To convince the future reader that there is no such a thing as "race suicide" within our portals, the following item from the Mountain Home of October 4th, 1905, is published, with the remark that there are a large number of families in Talladega county who can show "Olive branches" with any place on earth. Large family, Solomon Spence Wilson was reared in Talladega county, a Confederate soldier for four years, and now has eight boys, seven girls and thirty-five grandchildren. He is over sixty years of age, and was in town Saturday selling cotton."

Highland Park Co., Mrs. T. H. Willingham, president, W. J. Willingham, manager, surveyed and laid out into building lots the "Nance property," north of Brignolia Street, in Talladega in May, 1905, naming it Highland Park. Presents were given away to people who attended the sale. Many lots were sold, and a beautiful addition to the city was inaugurated.

In the local papers report of the city council meeting of November 6th, 1905, appears the first step taken toward paving the city and laying sidewalks by Talladega in all its history. "Mayor Wellington Vandiver presented an ordinance, which he had prepared, providing for paving the streets and sidewalks of the city. The ordinance is fashioned after the best models in use in some of the larger cities, and provides for the city doing the work and assessing the property owner for the same. The work can be paid for by the property owner in five annual payments. The ordinance is not operative, however, until subsequent ordinances are passed authorizing the paving of certain streets, or a certain street. It is

the purpose of the body to keep up the work until the entire city is covered. The ordinance was passed."

The first "improvement ordinance" published was the one to lay sidewalks. There was much discussion and heated argument between the mayor and property owners over grade lines, cutting down trees, and encroachments on streets, some citizens even threatening to use force to prevent the lines being run and grades established according to survey, but in every instance the matter was settled without a lawsuit or ill-feeling. Messrs. Conniff and Clapp, of Montgomery, secured the contract to do the paving. The city put down almost twelve miles of concrete paving thereby making Talladega far more desirable as a comfortable place to live in than it was before. The bulk of this paving was done during the early months of 1906.

An ice company was formed in January, 1906, composed of W. H. Boynton, J. H. Hicks, R. W. Henderson, S. C. Oliver, J. E. Camp, C. C. Whitson and G. A. Mattison. This company bought out the Anniston Fertilizer and Ice Company, which had already erected a building and nearly completed a plant in Talladega. The new company took the name of the Talladega Ice & Storage Company. S. C. Oliver was elected president, G. A. Mattison, secretary, W. H. Boynton, J. H. Hicks, G. A. Mattison, C. C. Whitson, S. C. Oliver, directors.

The negroes at Talladega College on January 15th rebelled at the appointment of a young Southern white man as assistant to the farm superintendent; over one hundred of the students severing their connection with the college on this account. President Nyce and the faculty stood firm. The negroes appealed to the American Missionary Association. Dr. F. A. Beard, secretary of the board of trustees of Talladega college, writing from New York to Dr. Nyce says among other things:

"We have been fighting race prejudice for sixty years. Race prejudice is just as bad when directed against a white man, as it is when directed against a negro. This is so clearly a case of race prejudice that we would not go back upon our history to sustain the appeal of the students." Mr. Parks, the young strike began, remained and quietly performed his duties, and eventually about ninety per cent of the students who went on the strike returned. The point made by the striking students was that Mr. Parks was a Southern man.

The beginning of the library can be briefly stated from a local notice

of the meeting of the city council in the issue of the Mountain Home of February 7th, 1906:

"Messrs. J. K. Dixon, G. A. Mattison, S. C. Oliver, C. C. Whitson and J. E. Camp appeared before the council in the interest of the Carnegie library, asking that nine hundred dollars per year be appropriated for its support. These gentlemen clearly stated the proposition, and the benefits to be derived from the library. They stated that there was no intention of doing away with the Chautauqua, and that Mrs. Jemison, who donated the lot, was perfectly willing that the Chautauqua Auditorium should remain. Alderman Cobb moved that the money be appropriated. Dr. Heacock wanted the council to consider the question for a time before acting, but the motion of Mr. Cobb was put to a vote and carried."

Mr. Carnegie contributed \$12,500 with which to erect a library. Mrs. L. A. Jemison contributed the lot and \$10,000. Ten thousand dollars of bonds of the city, issued to build the south side school building, the interest of which, were to be used as a support fund. At the March, 1906, meeting of the city council the following trustees of the Carnegie-Jemison library were elected: J. H. Johnson for six years, J. E. Camp and H. L. McElderry for four years, Dr. S. W. Welch and W. H. Boynton for two years. The citizens had ceased to support the Alabama Chautauqua assembly, and the trustees sold the auditorium to J. E. Stone in August, 1906, who tore it down and used the timbers to build a livery barn on Court street. The funds received from this were used in an unsuccessful effort to continue the Chautauqua assembly at the opera house, but this was eventually abandoned for lack of support.

The city council planted one hundred Pecan and English Walnut trees along the streets of the city in the spring of 1906. It was then argued that these trees would yield nuts, as well as afford shade. The trees were parcelled out to the citizens who would agree to plant them and take care of them. Some were placed on the public square. The Pecan trees were budded on hickory stock, or grafted on hickory trees, and were procured from Florida. A few were planted on the grounds of the south side school. The nursery men claimed that the nut trees would bear in six years. The experiment of planting nut-bearing trees on the streets was watched with interest by other towns, and many followed the example of Talladega. It was presumed that successive municipal administrations and every citizen would feel a pride in protecting and taking care of these trees.

The Talladega Cordage Company was established in February, 1906, the Talladega Oil Mills, being the proprietors. The building was of brick, 140x60 feet, located on the old Linton lot, on the corner of North and West streets. The mill employed about thirty hands and was built to turn out four thousand pounds of its product every twenty-four hours. Some years later fire destroyed it, and it was not rebuilt.

Signor Moretti, the Italian sculptor, who had designed the bronze statue of Vulcan at Birmingham, removed to Talladega, and interested himself in the marble deposits on the McKenzie farm, three miles south-east of the city. Articles of incorporation of the Talladega Marble Company, with a capital stock of \$366,000 were filed in the probate office of Talladega in February, 1906.

The incorporators were H. M. Atkinson, P. S. Arkwright, R. E. Cullinans, of Atlanta, and Signor G. Moretti, of Talladega. The latter built a pretty home and established a studio at the "Moretti Quarries," where development of the marble began during the summer and fall of that year.

A vigorous movement was made in February and March of 1906 to have a Union Depot for Talladega. When it was understood that work would begin on the new passenger depot of the L. & N. railroad, Mayor Wellington Vandiver wrote to Supt. Brooks of that road asking him to withhold further progress in the matter until our citizens could have an opportunity to present the many reasons why Talladega should have a union passenger station. Later on, the mayor, in conjunction with G. A. Mattison, president of the Commercial Association, addressed letters to the general managers of all the railroads entering Talladega asking them to meet representatives of the city in a conference to be held in Talladega on March 15th. Supt. Brooks replied that it had been planned by the L. & N. to remodel the old L. & N. depot this spring and that the B. & A. would use it jointly with the L. & N., but he agreed to attend the conference.

The mayor, the officers of the Commercial Association and many prominent business men were present, as were President Milton H. Smith and Supt. T. S. Brooks, of the L. & N.; General Supt. W. N. Foracre, Division Supt, J. H. Stanfield and Roadmaster B. B. Atwood, of the Southern; J. F. Fleetwood, General Manager of the B. & A. railroad; and the attoreny and officials of the A. B. & A. railroad, who put forth as

spokesman Hon. Cecil Browne. Mayor Wellington Vandiver stated the purpose of the meeting and the desires of the city. He was followed by G. A. Mattison of the Commercial Association, who spoke briefly of the needs of a union station, stated the business mens side of the matter and moved it up to the railroad people. President Milton Smith admitted the inadequacy of his road's facilities, and the need of room in its present location. He said the A. B. & A. had submitted plans to him whereby the L. & N. might join that road in a terminal. Mr. Foracre said the Southern would take the plan under advisement. Mr. Browne said the A. B. & A. was friendly to the other roads and would co-operate with them. Mr. J. K. Dixon said the B. & A. would co-operate. President Smith suggested that it would cost his road \$25,000 to make the change to a union depot, and he wished to know if Talladega would give the land, the right of way and the money to compensate his road if the change was made. No one was able to reply to this question. The meeting adjourned feeling that not very much progress had been made toward securing a union depot.

At the close of the March term of the City Court, Circuit Clerk Marion H. Sims resigned to enter the law firm of Knox, Dixon & Burr. The appointment of a Circuit Clerk to fill out the unexpired term was the prerogative of Circuit Judge John Pelham, but the circuit clerk is ex-officio clerk of the city court, and this appointment comes from the city judge. On Friday, March 16th, Hon. G. K. Miller, city judge, appointed John D. McNeel, who came to Talladega from Trussville, Alabama, where he had taught school, and who at the time was serving as superintendent of the city schools. D. A. McNeill, of Lineville, Ala., was selected as superintendent of the city schools to succeed Prof. John D. McNeel.

May 13, 1906, Rev. T. M. Calloway who had been for some years past pastor of the First Baptist church, resigned to accept a similar position with the First Baptist church of Pensacola, Fla.

The Talladega Fire Department visited Rome, Ga., on May 16, 1906. This department had grown from a jumper reel with 300 feet of rotten hose housed in a shed in front of the Presbyterian church, 1901, to one of the best second grade departments in the south. The team and wagon went to Rome on a fast freight while the men followed next day on a passenger train. The contesting firemen were George Bauerlein, chief, M. R. Striplin, W. F. Hanley, T. C. Collins, L. W. Bean, J. F. Leak, W. G. Adair, J. M. Venable, Joe Thomas, H. L. McLane, M. J.

Lane, Bledsoe Davis, R. W. Whooper, Lem Ray, D. E. Browne, F. T. Oglesby, Claude Simmons, J. S. Boyd, R. Heine, timekeeper, Ex-chief V. L. Adams. In the Georgia-Alabama Firemans Association Tournament, the Talladega department got the lions share of prize money in the contests, returning with two hundred and seventy-five dollars prize money. The largest prize was one hundred and fifty dollars in the three hundred yard dash for two horse wagon race. The Rome Herald in speaking of Talladega said: "The fast aggregation of fire fighters from the little Alabama city went through the race without a hitch." The Talladega citizens on the return of the boys gave each man taking part in the race a present of five dollars, also ten dollars to Tom Collins, the driver of the winning wagon race, and forty dollars to the boys with which to start a fund to buy a new hose wagon. At the Georgia-Alabama Association meeting Mr. M. R. Striplin, a member of the Talladega company, was elected vice president of the association.

CHAPTER XLVI

As usual politics warmed up as the time for the elections approached in 1906; the Congressional and county executive committees meeting in early July, and ordering the elections for August 27th. Congressman Sydney J. Bowie declined to offer again, and several favorite sons of the district went about with lightning rods up their backs, hoping that a congressional electric bolt would strike in their vicinity, but, as time wore on, the prospect of W. B. Craig of Dallas, seemed brightest. The county Democratic executive committee adopted a resolution, offered by T. S. Plowman, requiring that candidates for solicitor of the city court and superintendent of education of the county, both of which offices being by law appointive ones should run in the primary, and the appointments should be made from the primary's choice. All offices, including United States Senators were to be voted on in the primary. The state ticket contained fifty-two names. The county ticket voted for in the primary contained fewer names than usual, as there were a number of offices not expired. The race for county solicitor was probably as warmly contested as any other, the candidates being M. H. Sims, W. T. Edwards, and J. W. Vandiver. Messrs. John C. Williams and Mark T. Linder were candidates for county superintendent of education, and this race was one that aroused much interest. Delegates to the state convention were also voted for in the primary. The ticket elected was as follows: For the legislature J. H. Lawson and J. B. Sanford. For the Senate Jno. W. Heacock. For solicitor of the city court, Marion H. Sims, for superintendent of

education Mark T. Linder, for sheriff W. R. Middleton, commissioners J. A. Harris, A. F. Jones. For delegates to the state convention J. W. Brown, Cecil Browne, J. K. Dixon, W. B. Harrison, J. H. Johnson, J. W. Oden, W. I. Phillips, W. D. Smith, J. M. Thornton, J. B. White, C. C. Whitson, J. Harwell Wilson.

Saturday, July 21, 1906, William Travers Jerome, district attorney of New York, the prosecutor of the Celebrated "Thaw" trial, arrived in Talladega, the details of the visit being given in the issue of the Mountain Home of July 25th, as follows: Jerome in Talladega, famous New Yorker spent Saturday in the city. Attended barbecue and reception. William Travers Jerome, District Attorney of New York, accompanied by his assistants, Francis P. Carvin and Almuth C. Vandiver, arrived in Talladega Saturday morning from Birmingham, to be the guests of the Mayor, Wellington Vandiver. Soon after they reached the city the party was driven to Allison's mill, where a barbecue was given them by the Talladega bar. An old time Southern 'Cue was something of a novelty to Messrs. Jerome and Garvin, but Mr. Almuth Vandiver, being a native of Talladega, was just getting back to his "raisin'." The New Yorkers thoroughly enjoyed the outing, and when Mr. Jerome was called upon for a speech he had progressed so far in his enjoyment as to have his coat off and collar unbuttoned. He expressed his appreciation of Southern hospitality, and his enjoyment of the day with Talladegans, and was just about to touch upon politics when a terrific thunder shower came up and the party scurried for their vehicles and hastened home. The committee of the bar having the barbecue in charge was composed of Judge G. K. Miller, C. C. Whitson, B. H. Burr and A. M. Garber. In the evening Mayor and Mrs. Vandiver complimented Mr. Jerome with a reception at their home on South street and during the receiving hour a large number of ladies and gentlemen called.

The 85th annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist Convention was held in Talladega the week of July 18, 1906. It was estimated that 600 visitors were present. There were enrolled 334 messengers from the various churches of that faith in the state. G. L. Comer, of Eufaula, presided when the convention was called to order on Wednesday. Officers elected for the ensuing year, President Judge N. D. Denson, of LaFayette; vice presidents, D. C. Cooper, of Oxford and J. B. Ellis, of Selma; secretary, Rev. M. M. Wood, of Fayette. The consideration of Howard college was one of the most important features of the convention. Dr. A. P. Montague reported that \$75,000 for the endowment fund had been raised and that

sixty-five young men had been trained by Howard College last year for the ministry. Rev. W. B. Crumpton, the president of the Anti-Saloon League, introduced Brooks Lawrence, the newly elected superintendent to the convention, who explained in detail the work of the League. In strong eruptive words he said the saloons must go, to which there was deafening applause by the large audience.

The city primary was called by the executive committee to be held on the 29th day of October, 1906, the terms of the municipal officers then in office expiring in April, 1907. On September 24, 1906, Mr. S. C. Oliver announced for mayor. No other citizen announced, and Mr. Oliver was elected without opposition.

The aldermen elected were J. B. White, M. G. McCargo, Dr. B. B. Simms, V. L. Adams, W. E. Dickinson, E. T. Castleberry, T. D. Boynton, J. T. Freeman.

The printed statements of the three banks doing business in Talladega this year show that the First National Bank, the Isbell National Bank and the Talladega National Bank did a business amounting in the aggregate to more than a million dollars. The combined deposits are \$629,623.58. The loans are \$663,769.63. The growth of the city is shown in the fact that the three banks did more business, pro rata, than when there were but two banks.

The appointments made by the North Alabama Conference for the Talladega District for the coming year, 1907, were as follows: Presiding Edler J. W. Newman, Talladega First church, L. C. Branscomb; Anniston J. D. Simpson; Sylacauga, J. T. Morris; Oxford, T. K. Roberts; Munford circuit, J. T. Black; Lincoln, J. A. Mathison; Childersburg, C. C. O'Neal; Plantersville, J. W. Culberson.

The Synod of Alabama met in Talladega November 12th, 1906. Dr. W. E. McIlwain, president of the Alabama Synodical college for Boys at Anniston, preaching the opening sermon. The following officers were elected at the night session: Rev. A. L. Little, of Selma, moderator; W. L. Sinnott, of Centerville, stated clerk; Rev. Neal E. Kehay, of Marion Junction, Permanent Clerk. The Synod was composed of the East Alabama Presbytery, the Mobile, the North Alabama, and the Tuscaloosa Presbyteries, and its session in Talladega drew a large number of prominent men here. Dr. Moore of Atlanta spoke at the morning session.

Rev. James D. Gwaltney, of Covington, Kentucky, accepted the call of the First Baptist church of Talladega, and on Sunday, December 2, 1906, he preached his first sermon as pastor in that church, from the 29th verse of the tenth chapter of Acts. The united congregations of the city assembled at the Baptist church Sunday evening to welcome the new pastor to the city.

On January 1, 1907, contractors began to tear down the brick, two story store on the northeast corner of the public square, known as the "Isbell Corner." A three story, store and office building was begun in its place. The improvements also included an addition to the Isbell bank building just east of the corner and an addition to the store north of the corner, where the postoffice was then located. Messrs. W. H. Boynton and J. E. Camp were the owners. Thirty-five thousand dollars were expended in these improvements. The corner building was the first public building in Talladega to install an elevator, and steam heat. The Talladega National Bank and the First National bank consolidated February 19, 1907, with a capital stock of \$150,000—the business in the future to be conducted under the name of the Talladega National Bank. The board of directors elected for the consolidated bank were Jno. B. Knox, J. H. Johnson, T. S. Plowman, J. B. White, Geo. P. Kyser, C. S. Jones, J. K. Dixon, H. L. McElderry, J. H. Hicks, W. N. Maddox, J. C. Bowie, D. L. Lewis, J. B. Woodward, J. C. Lanier, R. W. Henderson and L. G. Jones. The officers of the bank under the new regime were H. L. McElderry, president; R. W. Henderson, vice president; J. C. Bowie, second vice president; J. A. Thornton, cashier, W. C. Dowdell, assistant cashier.

The holdings of the Talladega company which had been granted a franchise to generate power at Jackson Shoals and light the city with electric light, were bought by a New York company in March, 1907, for a consideration of forty thousand dollars. Mr. George W. Chambers practically owned all of the stock of the Talladega company. The new company, under the name of the Alabama Development Company, were to take charge of the Talladega plant in April. Mr. Woolf, of Raleigh, N. C., being the representative of the new company. The name taken by the new company was that of the Alabama Power Development Company, the stockholders being J. H. Hanson, J. D. Mortimer, H. A. Barre, A. E. Smith, R. J. McClellen and H. H. Dean, of New York, R. H. Mitchell, of Alabama City, J. K. Dixon, of Talladega, and H. W. Sexton, of Anniston.

The streets of the city having been lettered and the houses num-

bered the necessary steps were next taken by the postoffice department to supply city mail delivery. An examination to select three carriers for the city mail delivery and a rural mail carrier for the Renfroe route, was conducted on March 24th, 1907, by the government's special agent. For the city carriers position the following persons took the examination: Jno. C. Mason, J. C. Puckett, M. C. Nelson, Zachery T. Wood, G. C. Parnell, H. C. Armbruster, C. L. Stockdale, Jno. F. Haynes, W. G. Younge, Willis L. Tomlin, Graves M. Madden. For the Renfroe route, L. R. Elston, M. C. Hayes and H. D. Thackerson. Only one of the applicants for the city mail delivery passed, that one being Jno. C. Mason.

Another examination was ordered for May 1, to secure eligibles for the city carriers places. Owing to the failure of the applicants to pass the free delivery of mail in the city was postponed from May 1 to June 1, 1907. On May 1, the examination for city carriers and postoffice clerks was held in the city building, the applicants being M. C. Nelson, J. C. Puckett, L. H. Pearce, Fred J. Capps, C. E. Brooks, Gustener T. Cook, Albert W. Stone, C. L. Stockdale, Howard S. Cox, W. S. Tomlin, William S. Younge, N. F. Riddle, Will R. Ray and C. W. Riddle. The carriers selected were N. Franklin Riddle No. 1, Albert W. Stone No. 2, James C. Puckett No. 3, Clarence L. Stockdale, substitute.

At the regular meeting of the city council on April 15, 1907, the annual message of retiring Mayor, Wellington Vandiver, was read to the board, the same being published in the local papers of that date. The message shows that the work of the retiring mayor and board for two years past appears in 34 ordinances and a large number of motions and resolutions, passed at forty-nine meetings, occupying 132 pages of closely written minutes. The mayor had served both as mayor and city attorney during his six years administration, at a salary of thirty-three dollars per month for four years, and sixty-five dollars per month for two years. A clause in the closing lines of the report reads thus: Six years ago Talladega, as municipality, had no credit abroad, and no financial standing at home, the officials having to wait for past due salaries. There was no electric light system. The fire company was a comic opera organization with 300 feet of rotten hose on a hand reel, located in a leaky wooden shed. The school facilities were insufficient, the sanitary laws were inefficient, the streets were not lettered, the houses unnumbered. There were but 35 sanitary sewer connections. The sidewalks were muddy in winter and overgrown with weeds in summer. The cemetery was a thicket overrun with weeds. An over crowded city school had no sanitary sewer con-

nections and the now beautiful suburb of Stoneington was without lights, water, gas, sanitary sewer or fire protection. At personal sacrifice to himself the mayor has labored to better the city, with the result that with the aid of the hard working aldermen who served without pay, or thanks, we have numbered houses, miles of cement paving, electrically lighted streets, sanitary sewers, extended, a thoroughly efficient fire department, a clean and orderly cemetery and municipal credit as good as any city in the land.

Editorially the Mountain Home says: "In many respects the past six years that Mr. Vandiver has presided as chief executive of the city have been the most progressive in the history of our municipal affairs. As a police magistrate he excels, and has made this department a larger source of revenue than ever before. In the sidewalk improvement the administration has done its best public good, and the miles of paving that now stretch up and down our streets are the direct result of Mayor Vandiver's work. They are his own ideas—he planned the ordinances, created sentiment in their favor, and the council put them in operation. At times we have seen fit to criticise the administration as we thought best, but to Mayor Vandiver and to Aldermen Heacock, Jackson, McAlpine, Miller, Lockey, Dickinson, Bishop, Bowie and Cobb, we say, you have done much for which you can feel proud, and a fair minded people will give you credit and just praise."

Mayor S. C. Oliver and the incoming board proceeded to appoint committees and elect the necessary officers, immediately on the reading of the annual message and the retirement of the old board. The finance committee, through Chairman McCargo fixed the salaries of officers, and the board proceeded to elect W. L. Coker clerk and tax collector. Z. W. Grogan, chief of police; the chief then announced his assistants as follows, T. F. Thompson, assistant chief, policemen John W. Thweatt, Jno. M. Hobbs, Mack Hobbs and Sylvan Wesley. The board then resumed the election of officers, resulting in the selection of W. B. Harrison, Esq., as city attorney; E. L. Phillips, street superintendent; B. B. Warwick, city physician; J. C. Bowie, city treasurer; M. R. Striplin, chief of the fire department; M. R. Adams, assistant chief; J. H. Lawson, city engineer.

The city of Sylacauga had a warm election on April 15th resulting in the selection of S. P. McDonald as Mayor for the second time without opposition, and the following aldermen, M. E. Conaway and R. W. Pra-

ther, L. H. Crumpler and Jno. H. Jarvis, C. W. Hammett and W. J. McLeod, T. V. Knight and W. A. Burns.

The old Governor Parsons home, owned by J. M. Lewis, was purchased in June, 1907, by the Highland Land Company for thirty thousand dollars. The company was incorporated was composed of Hill Ferguson, of Birmingham, president; D. L. Lewis, of Sycamore, vice president; and B. H. Burr and J. K. Dixon, Esquires, of Talladega. Streets were laid off, and sidewalks paved through the property and lots sold as residence lots. A handsome and attractive suburb at once sprang up, rapidly filling with sightly homes. An effort was set on foot to remove the Synodical college to Highland.

A large mass meeting in the interest of prohibition was held in the court house on Monday, July 29th, 1907. Rev. F. B. Webb called the meeting to order, and asked Rev. Brooks Lawrence, a Presbyterian minister, to pray. Rev. L. C. Branscomb nominated C. C. Whitson, Esq., as chairman of the meeting, seconded by John C. Williams. J. Harwell Wilson, of Lincoln, was made secretary. Rev. J. W. Newman offered a resolution that we proceed at once to organize for a prohibition campaign in Talladega county. This motion was discussed by Rev. Jas. D. Gwaltney, Rev. J. C. Bentley, Rev. Mr. Hinson, of Lincoln, Jno. C. Williams, J. A. Edwards, Walter Hurst, and B. H. Burr. On motion of G. L. Schmidt a rising vote was called, every man in the house rising. Rev. L. C. Branscomb offered a resolution naming J. W. Brown, of Sylacauga, C. C. Whitson, M. N. Manning and C. W. Stringer of Talladega, and Robert Burns, of Lincoln, a committee to take the campaign in hand and perfect the organization. Maj. G. A. Joiner put the question before the body, and it was carried. Petitions asking that an election be held on prohibition secured 1387 signers in three days. Monday afternoon, August 19, 1907, the petition was stolen or snatched from the hand of George Vice, while he was lighting a cigar in the saloon of McKenzie Bros., by a negro named Alex Bonner. Mr. Vice was carrying the petition around securing additional signatures, when he was called into the saloon and asked by an employee of the place to have a drink, which he declined, a cigar was offered and accepted. Another petition was circulated and a sufficient number of names secured. Chairman Whitson explaining the affair in a published card in the local papers.

On Monday, August 24, a petition containing 936 names, and out of this number 660 qualified voters under the laws of the state, was filed

with the probate judge—it only required 540 to comply with the law. Granting the prayer of the petition the probate judge fixed September 30th as the day for the election. Out of a total of 1,508 votes cast in the county 1,273 were for prohibition. Only 235 votes were polled for the “wet” ticket. At several polling places the ladies spent the day at the polls, serving refreshments, and soliciting votes for prohibition. The prohibition against the sale of liquor was not to take effect until January 1, 1908. The official count showed 1274 votes for prohibition, with 227 against it. Calhoun county followed the example of Talladega by voting dry on October 15th by a majority of 1558 votes. In April of this year while the State Medical Association was in session at Mobile, that body elected one of Talladega’s leading physicians, Dr. Samuel Wallace Welch president of the State Medical Association. A committee of local physicians and citizens met the train at Talladega on his arrival from Mobile and with a carriage in waiting escorted him to his home. Previous to this time in recognition of his professional standing Dr. Welch had been elected president of the County Medical Society, member of the County Board of Censors, member of the State Board of Health and Senior Counsellor.

CHAPTER XLVII

Dr. Robert A. Walton, assisted by Rev. Geo. W. Shaefer, P. T. Boyle, soloist, and G. Preston Smith, singer, conducted a revival at the Presbyterian church in October, 1907, which attracted much attention. The methods of the Evangelist and his assistants were new to the said Presbyterians of the city, and large congregations were attracted. An “Apple Feast” for the boys was one of the features of the meeting.

While raiding a negro crap game near the city line, southwest of Talladega November 2nd on Saturday night, Assistant Police Chief Tom Thompson was shot and killed. Search was immediately made for the parties who were reported to have been participants in the game. A posse came upon Fred Singleton, one of the players near Renfro, and riddled his body with bullets. Henry Burt Pope, George Williams, Frank Kelley, Flournoy Glaze and others were tried for the murder. Frank Kelley was convicted and sentenced for life, the others being tried when passion had cooled, and better counsels prevailed were acquitted. This was the first police officer killed in the history of the city. Thompson was a popular, brave man, in the prime of life, whose death was greatly regretted.

Important changes were made in the management of the Presbyterian Orphans Home, located at Talladega, during the year 1907. Heretofore the board of trustees had been composed largely of ministers, but laymen were added to the management by the Huntsville Synod. Mr. G. R. Foster, who for 14 years had been general superintendent of the Home, was made superintendent of the farm, and manager of the dairy. Mr. H. L. McKee was made superintendent and secretary of the Home. Mrs. Ramsey, of Birmingham, was elected matron.

The city Democratic primary for municipal offices was conducted Monday, April 1, 1908. There was no opposition to Mayor S. C. Oliver. For aldermen at large, T. D. Boynton was elected over C. W. Stringer. For aldermen for first ward J. B. White defeated J. C. Burt, Esq. Mr. V. L. Adams had no opposition in the second ward. In the third ward E. T. Castleberry won over W. E. Dickinson. In the fourth ward R. Heine defeated E. B. Miller. The total vote was 405. At its first meeting the new board passed a resolution permitting the Water and Light Commission to install a meter system for water consumers.

Dr. B. B. Simms resigned from the Light and Water Commission and as Dr. Lightcap, another member of the Commission, had removed, there were two vacancies, these being filled by the election of Mayor S. C. Oliver and G. A. Mattison.

The county candidates were as follows: For tax collector, J. B. Edwards, J. A. Woodward; tax assessor, D. M. Mallory, J. A. Nichols; county treasurer, S. H. Henderson, W. M. Graham; Superintendent of education, Jno. C. Williams, M. T. Linder; Commissioners, W. J. Williamson, J. B. Stapp, E. A. Hammett and W. B. Campbell.

The nominees were collector, J. A. Woodward; assessor, D. M. Mallory; treasurer, S. H. Henderson; Superintendent of Education M. T. Linder; commissioners J. W. Stapp, E. A. Hammett.

Through the efforts of Congressman Craig, sixty-five thousand dollars was appropriated by congress for a federal building in Talladega in June, 1908. Several eligible lots were offered as a building site, but after investigation the Exchange hotel, erected before the war by John Donahoo, situated on the corner of Court and North streets, was purchased by the government from Mr. J. A. Bingham for seventeen thousand dollars, as the most appropriate situation for the government build-

ing. This building had been a hotel for more than half a century and when it was demolished another of the ancient land marks of Talladega was swept into the tide of oblivion.

The Alabama Chatauqua for 1908 was held in the Elks Theatre on August 3rd to 12th. Carrico's orchestra furnished the music. Chas. Lane, Dr. Geo. P. B. Bible, Lieut. Goveronr of Mississippi, Wellington Vandiver, Sid Landon, W. Powell Hale, the Courtney Juggling Troupe, the Misses Turner, banjoists, Mrs. William Calvin Chilton, reader, furnished the talent, which was very pleasing to the quite small audiences. Many citizens on the approach of the Chatauqua hied themselves to the so-called "springs" thereby avoiding the necessity of patronizing the Chatauqua. Others manifested indifference to the platform attractions. The assembly was conducted at a loss, and at the close of the session of 1909 it was resolved not to reopen it again, unless greater interest was manifested.

The appointments of the preachers for this section by the North Alabama Methodist conference in November, 1908, were as follows: W. C. Howard, presiding elder. Anniston, J. D. Simpson. Childersburg, J. W. Tucker. Columbiana, J. T. Black. Vincent circuit, R. Y. Hannon. Glen Addie, M. C. Rowland. Heflin, C. C. O'Neal Lanier, J. F. Cornelius, Sylacauga, J. T. Morris. Lincoln, J. C. Craig. Talladega city, G. W. Read.

In December, 1908, Mr. Borden H. Burr, solicitor of the circuit court, resigned that place to form a law partnership with a Birmingham firm thereby removing from the circuit. Several ambitious lawyers became candidates for the position. Messrs. J. C. Burt, M. N. Manning and J. J. Pierce, of Talladega, J. B. Sanford, of Sylacauga, Edgar Whatley, of Clay, and John Haynes, of Shelby, were candidates for the solicitorship. Governor Comer appointed Walter S. Smith, of Lineville, Clay county, the editor of the Lineville Headlight, to the place.

The grand jury's report for the January term, 1909, referring to witnesses called to testify of violations of the prohibition law calls attention to the "tendency of the people to perjure themselves to protect violators of this law," and subsequent grand jury reports corroborate this accusation and add to it with much emphasis. In one of the reports it is stated that men who are otherwise truthful will perjure themselves unblushingly to shield notorious illegal liquor sellers, and that the grand

jury finds it impossible to procure proof against men who are well known to be engaged in illegal selling.

Mr. John D. McNeel, who came to Talladega after teaching a term at Trussville, Alabama, and was elected superintendent of the city schools, and later appointed by Hon. G. K. Miller, Judge of the City Court, as clerk of the city court, was in March, 1909, selected by Governor Comer, to act in the capacity of the governor's private secretary, succeeding Private Secretary W. E. Fort, who was given the place of a judge of one of the Birmingham courts. The vacancy of city clerk was filled by the appointment of Capt. J. J. Pierce.

The convention of the State Christian Endeavor Society met in Talladega April 17th, 1909. Mayor Oliver, in behalf of the city, welcomed the visitors. Mr. William Golden extended the welcome in behalf of the local Endeavorers. Karl Lehman, of Denver, Colo., was one of the prominent speakers. Rev. Francis E. Clark, the founder of the society, was present and addressed the convention. The officers elected for the ensuing year were C. F. Ballard, of Montgomery, president; H. O. Bernard, of Birmingham, vice president; Howard L. Smith, of Talladega, secretary.

The city was host of the Georgia-Alabama Volunteer Firemen's Association May 25, 1909. Among the companies represented were Rome, Anniston, Gadsden and Pratt City. The prize for the best decorated vehicle in the big parade went to Miss Aline Wilson, the turnout of the "Children of the Confederacy," containing a diminutive bride and groom and the wagon of Master Charlie Best, drawn by a pair of magnificent goats, beautifully decorated, was greatly admired. Prof. D. A. McNeel made the address of welcome, response by C. A. Harris, of Rome, Ga. The 100 yard dash race went to John Lambert, of Pratt City, Robert Christopher, of Gadsden, getting second place. In the ladder climbing contest John Palmer, of Anniston, and T. D. Caldwell, of Rome, tied, in the time of 5 $\frac{3}{5}$ seconds, but in the run off Palmer secured first place in 5 $\frac{2}{5}$ seconds. In the Shoo-Fly race Rome was the victor, Anniston second. In the Championship two horse wagon race Talladega won in 51 $\frac{3}{5}$ second, with Anniston second in 53 $\frac{4}{5}$. In the second two horse wagon race Rome won in 51 $\frac{3}{5}$ seconds with Talladega second in 56 $\frac{1}{5}$.

The death of Supt. H. L. McKee, of the Orphans Home, causing a

vacancy in the position in June, 1909, the trustees of that institution elected Rev. George Dunglinson, of Talladega, as superintendent, and Mrs. Dunglinson, as matron. At the time of his election Mr. Dunglinson was superindendent of the B. & A. railroad, which place he resigned in July and was succeeded by Mayor S. C. Oliver.

In September, 1909, began the agitation of the liquor question, in the form of an amendment to the state constitution providing in the first section that intoxicating liquors should be forever prohibited in the state, and in the second section that the legislature under its police power might designate places where liquor might be stored or kept. Many interpreted the second section as a liberty to be granted by future legislatures to officers giving them the right to search for liquors not kept in the places to be designated by the legislature, and consequently as an invasion of the sanctity of the home. Good men, honest in their convictions aligned themselves on both sides of this decision and the friendships of generations were severed by the acrimony of the debate. Many men who were really temperance advocates objected to the provision to become incorporated in the constitution. It proved to be one of the hottest contests in the history of the state, and an unfortunate move for the permanence of prohibition. By a small vote Talladega county remained in the prohibition column, but the opponents of the amendments voted them down by a large majority in the state. Hon. H. S. D. Mallory, one of the candidates for Governor was born and reared in Talladega county and during the canvas Mr. Mallory spoke in this county at the court house and at a barbecue given in his honor at Alpine. The county gave him a majority vote over O'Neal.

The Methodist conference appointments for this section in December, 1909, were G. L. Jenkins, presiding elder. First Methodist church of Talladega, G. W. Read, returned. Childersburg, J. W. Tucker; Lanier circuit, J. P. Cornelius; Lincoln J. C. Craig; Munford J. H. Harris; Sylacauga, J. L. Williams. Rev. H. C. Howard, who had been presiding elder was sent to the Highlands church, Birmingham. Rev. L. C. Branscomb remained in his charge at Birmingham.

Talladega county is the dome of the state, the skyland of Alabama. Due east of its capital city sleeps Cheaha mountain more than twenty-four hundred feet in height and the highest point in Alabama. As many as twenty peaks from 1200 feet in height to two thousand feet rear their heads above the beautiful valleys. Three long spurs of the Appalachians transverse the county from northeast to southwest, from the

feet of which flow numerous clear, cold streams of sparkling water. Nowhere can be found a more entrancing blending of mountain and plain, of forest and meadow, and of a landscape as varied as was the primeval Caanan of the Jews. Agriculture flourishes in the great diversity of the soil offered, the principal soils being the red valley lands, the grey of the uplands, and the sandy loam of the lands by the streams. The timber of the mountains is composed of all varieties of the pine, chestnut and chinquepin maple, dogwood beech and oaks of the different varieties, including white, blackpost, Spanish red, water oak, overcup, black jack, swamp, Chestnut oak, willow and scarlet oak. Of the hichories the county grows sheel bark, mockernut, bitternut and pignut hickories. Of the other varieties of timber can be mentioned white ash, maple, linden, sweet gum, sycamore holly, black gum walnut, hackberry, cedar and poplar. Hardwood industries would find every possible wood necessary for use growing in this county. Seven hundred and eighty-four square miles comprises the area of Talladega county, the tillable lands of which would support a population ten times as great as now inhabits it. Of agricultural products the principal crops grown are cotton, corn, wheat, oats, rye, sweet potatoes, hay, sorghum cane. Tobacco grows to success but it has not been cultivated except for individual use. The assessed value of lands of Talladega county in 1910 aggregated four million five hundred and three thousand nine hundred and five dollars, while the personal property of the county was assessed at six million, three hundred and two thousand dollars. Lands can be bought at prices ranging from ten dollars per acre to thirty-five dollars, and numerous instances could be given where the hard working farmer has bought lands in this county, with a part cash payment, and has paid the entire purchase money for his lands out of the crops grown the first year. The mean annual temperature of the county is 58 degrees. The annual rainfall is fifty inches, nearly equally distributed through the four seasons. Melons and fruit are raised in great abundance, the watermelon growing from twenty to fifty pounds in weight. All vegetables are produced in the gardens, lettuce, spinach, radish, parsley, mustard, and cabbage remaining out in the open all winter without freezing.

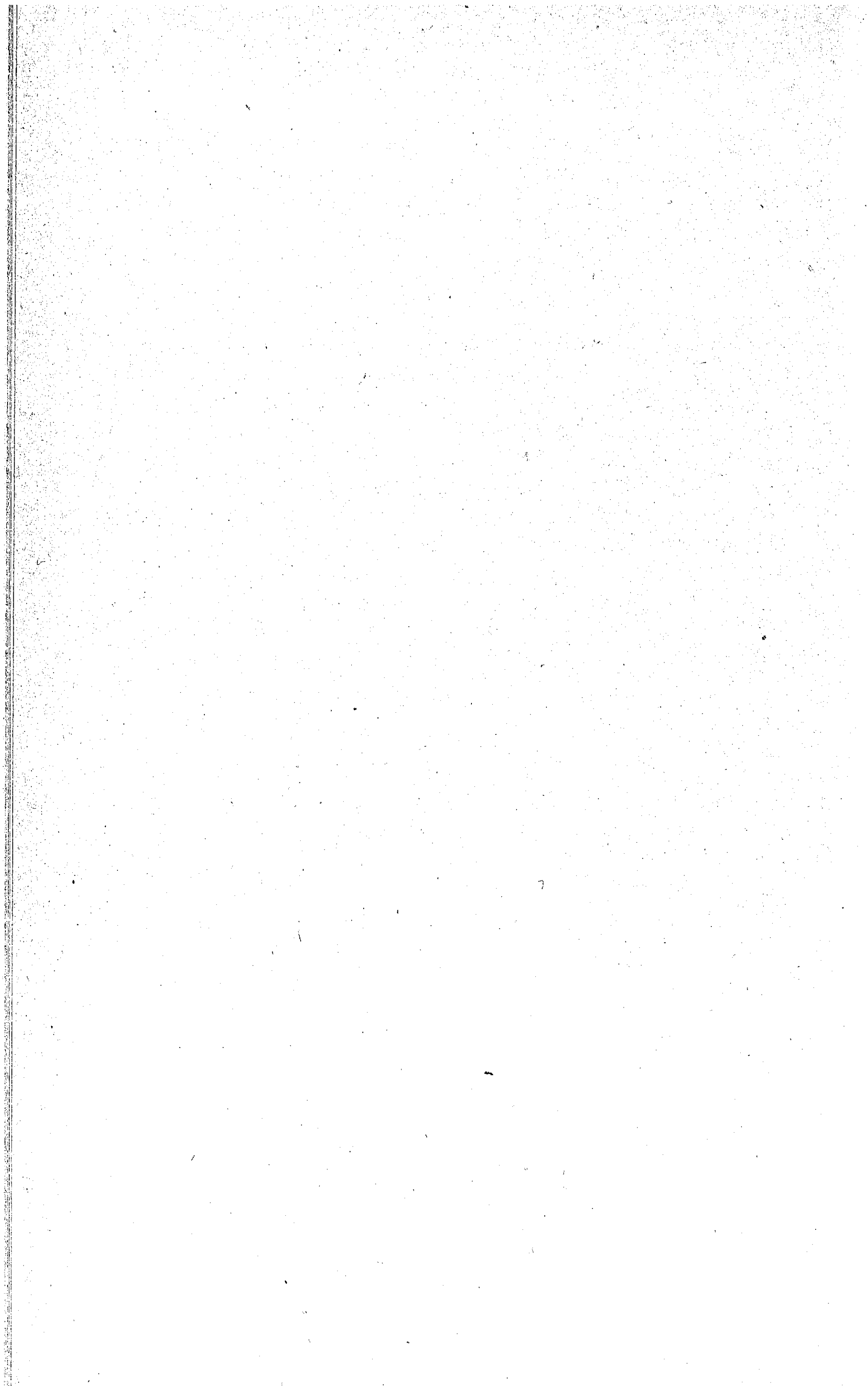
On the first day of January, 1910, the Ladies Memorial Association of Talladega sent a crisp dollar bill to ninety-six of the old soldiers of the Confederacy at Mountain Creek. It was a pleasant and charitable deed, and one worthy to be recorded as characteristic of the ladies of Talladega.

There were seventy-three marriages in the county in the month previous to the beginning of this year. Cottages are being erected on every

side, and the country side was blooming like a rose. Rural free delivery, telephone lines, the bicycle and the automobile was doing much to relieve the isolation and loneliness of the country and school houses were crowding every knoll and cross roads in the county. Crops had been abundant and prices good the previous year. Many mortgages were paid off, land was increasing in value, and horses and cattle were fat.

In looking back over the record of one hundred years the people of Talladega, like Paul in sight of the "Two Taverns" could thank God and take courage. In no section of the temperate zone is life better worth living than in the beautiful valleys and hill country of Talladega, a country so beautiful that when De Soto visited it five hundred years ago, he looked over its ravishing landscape and dreamed of here establishing an Empire greater than the one existing in the sunny vales of Spain. Every fruit and flower of the continent, outside of the tropics can be grown in profusion in Talladega. Wood, water and good society, the church and the school house is the heritage and possession of its citizens—good order, good government, good health and an abundance for all is the characteristic of her smiling slopes.

This record has been written in order that the children of Talladega in the smiling years to come can trace the stress and struggle of their fathers with the wilderness, the savage and the wild beast, can look upon valor and chivalry of their ancestors in war, and their wisdom and moderation in peace, and be proud of the place in history their own blood has won.



A P P E N D I X

The third item of the property sought to be confiscated by the Federal authorities was omitted in the published version of Vandiver's *History of Talladega*, and as the original manuscript is not available recourse was had to the original case files in the office of the Clerk of the United States District Court, at Montgomery, which were examined with the assistance of Miss Annie Schoolar, of the Clerk's office. Because of additional data obtained from these case files, both as to the location of the property and as to the use which had been made of each, the following will probably be of interest, the docket number of each case being given:

#687—"One large two story brick building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the north side of North Street fronting the Court House Square, in the town of Talladega, known as Vandiver & Henderson's Drug Store building, said to be the property of Vandiver & Henderson. This property was used by Dan'l W. Adams' Headquarters." "Daniel W. Adams, a so-called Brigadier-General in the army of the so-called Conf'd't States." From other papers in the file it appears that Vandiver & Henderson was a partnership composed of John H. Vandiver and Rufus M. Henderson.

#690—"One large two story brick building and lot on which it is located, situated on the West side of East street, in the town of Talladega, known as the Talladega Insurance Company building, said to be the property of Huey, Curry and others. This property was occupied and used as the Head Quarters of the Conscripting Bureau & Quartermaster's office."

#350—"One large two story brick building and lot of land, situated on the north side of North street fronting court house square in the town of Talladega, known as the late Confederate States Commissary building, said to be the property of Huey Camp & others."

#688—"One wooden building and shed, and the lot on which it is located, situated on the west side of East street in the town of Talladega, known as the late Confederate States Tax-in-kind warehouse, said to be the property of Huey and others. This property was occupied and used for storing the Tax-in-kind property of the late Conferderate States."

#694—"Ten acres of land more or less, situated on the north side of the Ala. & Tenn. R. R. about 300 yards above the Talladega Depot on

the Ala. & Tenn. R. R., near the town of Talladega, known as the late Confederate States Nitre Works, owner unknown. This property was used by the late Confederate States as nitre works or to manufacture nitre."

#689—"Twenty acres of land, all buildings and appurtenances thereon, situated about one-quarter of a mile north of the Ala. & Tenn. R. R., and about one-half mile north of the town of Talladega County, known as 'Camp Buckner,' said to be the property of J. G. L. Huey. This property was used as a camp of instruction by the rebel authorities."

#691—"The lower story of a brick building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the north side of North street, fronting Court Square, in the town of Talladega, known as Sturdivent's Gun Manufactory, said to be the property of J. H. Vandiver. This property was occupied and used for the manufactory of guns and arms for the late Confederate States."

#701—"The lower story of a brick building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the North side of North street, fronting Court House Square, in the town of Talladega, known as 'Curry's Store,' said to be the property of W. & J. A. Curry. This property was occupied and used as a rebel commissary store."

#558—"One wooden building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the north side of North street, fronting the Court House Square in the town of Talladega, known as Morgan & Bishop's office, said to be the property of the estate of Thomas L. Owens. This property was occupied and used as a conscript office and Tax-in-kind Quartermaster office."

#349—"One wooden building and lot of land on which it is located, situated on the north side of North street, fronting Court House Square, in the town of Talladega, known as the office of Charles G. Samuel and said to be the property of C. G. Samuel. This property was occupied and used as a conscript office and office of the Tax-in-kind Quartermaster."

#693—"One wooden building and dwelling house attached, and the lot of land on which it is located, situated on the east side of East street, near the Railroad Depot in the town of Talladega, known as Rigg's Warehouse, said to be the property of Thomas Hayden. This property was

occupied and used as a general Depository for Quartermasters and Commissary Stores." Both Thomas Riggs and Thomas Hayden defended as owners.

#697—"One wooden building with brick basement, and the lot on which it is located, situated on the northeast corner of Court and North streets, in the town of Talladega, known as 'Pitts Corner,' said to be the property of Thomas Clark. This property was occupied and used for general Hospital purposes."

#698—"A black smith and wood shop buildings and the lot on which it is located, situated on the corner of West and Battle streets, in the town of Talladega, known as Rhodes Shop, said to be the property of W. I. Rhodes and others. This property was occupied and used for manufacturing wagons, shoeing horses, and doing rebel work generally."

#692—"One brick black Smith Shop building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the south side of Battle Street, in the town of Talladega, known as 'Watson's Shop,' said to be the property of S. D. Watson and others. This property was occupied and used for the manufacture of Rebel arms."

#348—"One two story brick building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the corner of Court and Battle Streets, in the town of Talladega, known as 'Porter's Hall building,' said to be the property of M. H. Porter. This property was occupied and used for the manufacture of Enfield rifles and other arms for the rebellion."

#699—"One large three story brick building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the corner of North and Court streets, in the town of Talladega, known as the Talladega Exchange Hotel Building, said to be the property of the estate of John Donohoo and others. This building was occupied and used as a General Hospital."

#696—"One wooden building and the lot on which it is located, situated on the south side of Battle Street, in the town of Talladega, known as 'Taylor's Shop' said to be the property of John K. Taylor. This property was occupied and used as a work shop for the Conscript Camp."

#695—"One stable building, one two-story wooden building, and a brick black Smith Shop, and the lot on which it is located, situated on

the South side of Battle street, in the town of Talladega, known as the Edwards Stables & Shop, said to be the property of Dr. William Edwards. This property was occupied and used by shoeing horses, keeping rebel horses, and repairing and manufacturing wagons for the rebel government."

#700—"One wooden building and two acres of land on which it is located, situated between Battle and North streets, in the town of Talladega, known as lot No. 78 and Eason's residence, said to be the property of B. W. Groce. This property was occupied and used as Quarters by the troops of the late Confederate States." B. W. Groce, in his defence, alleged that the property consisted of lots Nos. 78, 80 and 81, that it was owned by William W. Ball, a lunatic, of whom said B. W. Groce was guardian.

#347—"A wooden Livery Stable, sheds and lot on which they are located, situated on the West side of East street, in the town of Talladega, known as the Thomason's Livery Stables and lot, said to be the property of F. M. Thomason. This property was occupied and used for keeping horses and as Confederate stables and lot generally."

The informers for the Federal authorities in all of these cases were shown in the files to have been George P. Plowman and John Henderson.

Light is thrown on the manner in which the citizens retained their property by a statement from the United States District Attorney, James Q. Smith, found in another but similar case, in which he stated

"the *use* of said property *knowingly* and with the *consent* of the *owner* is not certain, in fact such evidence cannot be made. The property will be released from Seizure on the usual terms."

The italics are his own. The terms seem to have been the taking of an oath of allegiance to the United States and giving bond as to future use of the property.

In addition to the many cases wherein steps were taken to confiscate property all over the state, like these in Talladega, there were a large number of cases in which confiscation of property of individuals was sought on the ground that they had aided the Confederacy after the proclamation by President Lincoln in 1862, commanding that all persons in

rebellion against the United States should lay down their arms, and should cease to give aid or comfort to anyone in rebellion, etc. This extended from the service in the armed forces of the Confederacy to the purchase of Confederate bonds, and against women as well as men. An interesting field of research lies here.

